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A Navy aviator flies over the South China Sea in an F/A-18E Super Hornet last week.

U.S. Navy photo

Navy cites progress in fighting fire on warship

By JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The battle to save the USS Bonhomme Richard from a ravaging fire entered a third day in San Diego Bay on Tuesday with indications that the situation aboard the amphibious assault ship was improving.

The U.S. Navy said in a statement late Monday that firefighters were making significant progress with the assistance of water drops by helicopters.

The ship was emitting much less smoke than the previous two days, when acrid billows poured out and blanketed parts of the region.

The Navy, meanwhile, has taken precautions in case the warship sinks and potentially releases 1 million gallons of oil on board into the harbor.

The U.S. Coast Guard has hired an oil clean-up crew to put a containment boom in place that

SEE FIRE ON PAGE 4

Challenging Beijing's claims

State Department rejects China's South China Sea assertions as unlawful

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

China's claims to natural resources across most of the South China Sea "are completely unlawful, as is its campaign of bullying to control them," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday in the State Department's most vigorous pushback to date on the disputed sea.

"The United States champions a free and open Indo-Pacific," Pompeo



Pompeo

said in the policy statement, which aligns America's position with a 2016 international court ruling. "[China] has no legal grounds to unilaterally impose its will on the region.

"Beijing uses intimidation to undermine the sovereign rights of Southeast Asian coastal states in the South China Sea, bully them out of offshore resources, assert unilateral dominion, and replace international law with 'might makes right.'"

China asserts sovereignty over

most of the South China Sea, claims disputed to various degrees by the neighboring nations of the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

In 2016, the Hague's Permanent Court of Arbitration determined that, under the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, China's claims over isles and reefs in the Spratly Islands near the Philippines were baseless.

SEE CLAIMS ON PAGE 3



GREGORY BULL/AP

A helicopter drops water on the USS Bonhomme Richard on Monday in San Diego.

PACIFIC

Claims: Policy doesn't entirely US neutrality in sea's many sovereignty disputes

FROM FRONT PAGE

China has ignored the ruling, and in recent years built and militarized artificial islands in the area.

"Today we are aligning the U.S. position on [China's] maritime claims in the [South China Sea] with the Tribunal's decision," the statement said.

It specifically rejected China's claims over Scarborough Shoal and the Spratly Islands near the Philippines; waters surrounding Vanguard Bank off Vietnam, Luconia Shoals off Malaysia, Natuna Besar off Indonesia; waters in Brunei's exclusive economic zone; and James Shoal, an entirely submerged reef off the coast of Malaysia.

The policy made no change in the United States' long-held position of taking no sides in the sovereignty disputes.

The change coincides with a far more robust presence by the U.S. military in the sea, where the U.S. Navy has stepped up the pace and visibility of operations in recent months.

Last week, the aircraft carriers USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan conducted joint operations in the South China Sea and were joined by a B-52 bomber.

That show of force came as China was concluding its own maritime exercise near the Parcel Islands, an archipelago that Vietnam also claims as its own.

China routinely encroaches on waters within neighboring

nations' so-called exclusive economic zones.

China's embassy in Washington issued a statement Monday saying the U.S. State Department "deliberately distorts the facts and international law" and attempts to "sow discord between China and other littoral countries."

"Under the pretext of upholding freedom of navigation and overflight, it is recklessly infringing on other countries' territorial sea and airspace and throwing its weight around in every sea of the world," the statement said. "We advise the U.S. side to earnestly honor its commitment of not taking sides on the issue of territorial sovereignty, respect regional countries' efforts for a peaceful and stable South China Sea and stop its attempts to disrupt and sabotage regional peace and stability."

Pompeo's statement "makes explicit a U.S. policy which was already implicit," Peter Dutton, director of the China Maritime Studies Institute at the U.S. Naval War College, told Stars and Stripes in an email Monday.

"So in my view the statement primarily marks a political shift," he said. "The Chinese will not be pleased that we have explicitly confronted their claims."

"And the Chinese will especially not be pleased that we sided explicitly with the Southeast Asians against them and did it with two aircraft carriers currently in the [South China Sea]. But this is the



ERICA BECHARD/ U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel Bannish, right, and Airman Joseph Lorenzo adjust the pitch control rods on an MH-60S Sea Hawk on the flight deck of the USS Ronald Reagan last week in the South China Sea. The Ronald Reagan and USS Nimitz conducted joint operations in the sea as China was concluding its own maritime exercise near the Parcel Islands, an archipelago that Vietnam also claims as its own.

right policy, since it explicitly aligns U.S. policy with international law."

Anthony Cordesman, a China expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, said the policy statement coming at a time of "considerably more acute tension with China" was more a signal of U.S. resolve than an expectation China would drop its actions to dominate the

South China Sea.

"So, what you're really doing is reinforcing U.S. pressure and tension with China, not setting the preface for any kind of military action or legal action," he said.

On a grander scale, the more explicit position "covers a great deal more than the South China Sea" because it is part of America's steadily accelerating strategic global competition with

China, Cordesman said.

Pompeo's statement comes just two days after The New York Times reported that Iran and China are working on a potential military partnership that would give China a foothold in the Middle East, a region where the U.S. has long held sway.

"This works in two directions," Cordesman said.

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Japan report warns of virus threat, aggressive competitors

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The coronavirus pandemic made the list of primary security concerns for Japan this year, alongside familiar names like China, Russia and North Korea, according to a Ministry of Defense white paper released Tuesday.

The ministry releases a report on its guiding philosophies, goals and challenges each summer. This year's document outlines security trends similar to those highlighted in 2019, including China's "relentless" militarization and coercion in the South China Sea and North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

"Such military trends in North Korea pose grave and imminent threats to Japan's security," the document said.

The defense ministry paper advises the government to "keep an eye on" the coronavirus' spread as it brings "diverse impacts and restrictions to military activities of respective countries."

The virus reached global pandemic status in March and temporarily sidelined a U.S. aircraft

carrier, but it has not crippled military activity by Japan's chief ally or its competitors, according to the white paper. In Russia, "even amid the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic within the forces, military activities have remained active," the report said. COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

The Japan Self-Defense Forces contributed significant efforts against the coronavirus, the white paper states. About 2,700 JSDF personnel worked aboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship that in February quarantined its 3,700 passengers and crew in Yokohama Bay.

Japan's service members also administered nearly half of all coronavirus tests given at Tokyo's Narita and Haneda international airports between March 28 and May 31.

JSDF hospitals and the National Defense Medical College Hospital have accepted coronavirus patients and conducted a clinical trial to see if Avigan could treat coronavirus, according to the white paper. The drug ultimately failed to provide such benefits, Kyodo News reported on Friday.

The ministry document warned

that China may be using the pandemic to its advantage, creating propaganda and sending medical professionals and equipment to other nations to gain favor and attack U.S. credibility.

China is spreading disinformation about the virus on social media, saying U.S. armed forces introduced it to China and that Chinese herbal medicine is having a therapeutic effect against COVID-19, according to the ministry.

Territorial disputes

Beijing remains one of Tokyo's primary security concerns, according to the document. Last year, a record 1,097 Chinese vessels were spotted in Japan's contiguous zone, the 12-mile-wide belt between a nation's territorial waters and international waters. In 2018, 607 Chinese vessels were spotted in Japan's contiguous zone.

"China has relentlessly continued unilateral attempts to change the status quo by coercion in the sea area around the Senkaku Islands, leading to a grave matter of concern," the ministry said in the document.

The two countries dispute sovereignty over the five small, uninhabited islands and three rocks southwest of Japan and east of Taiwan; the surrounding seabed is thought to contain large oil and natural gas reserves. The U.S. considers itself bound by its mutual-defense treaty to defend Japan if a conflict with China arises over the Senkakus.

China is "suspected of intending to regularize" its presence in region with its patrols, representing "coercion to create a fait accompli," according to the document.

The Japan Air Self-Defense Force scrambled jets 947 times last year in response to foreign aircraft. China was behind 675 of the intrusions, up from 638 in 2018. Russia was responsible for 268.

Moscow continues to station troops on the islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and Habomai, the white paper states. Russia has illegally occupied the northern territories since the end of World War II, according to the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Budget boost

Japan's defense budget this year includes money for F-35 Lightning II multirole stealth fighters. The jets' "superior electronic protection capability" should work to "minimize electromagnetic jamming from opponents who intend to invade Japan," according to the report.

The budget funds a new F-35A Lightning II fighter squadron at Misawa Air Base and refurbishment of its JS Izumo helicopter carrier to withstand the heat of F-35B takeoffs and landings, according to the white paper.

The overall budget, about \$47.35 billion, is up 1.2% from last year "to adapt to increasingly rapid changes in the security environment," the document states.

Other planned expenses include underwater drones for underwater defense, and construction of two guided-missile destroyers, a submarine and a minesweeping vessel.

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MILITARY

Bonhomme Richard's fate remains uncertain

If ship can't be saved, it would be one of the largest Navy has lost

By JOHN WILKENS

The San Diego Union-Tribune

For as long as the Navy has had ships, there have been fires, and some have been deadly. That the Bonhomme Richard appears to have escaped without fatalities also explains why the fire has been so hard to put out.

Hardly anyone was on board when it started.

"As counterintuitive as this sounds, I would much rather fight a fire at sea with a whole crew than fight it dockside," said Bryan McGrath, a retired Navy commander. "The ability to act quickly with a massive response and inhibit the spread is aided when you have all your people."

Some military experts believe the Bonhomme Richard can't be saved, and if that's the case, the mini-aircraft carrier — it was being retrofitted to deploy the latest-generation fighter jets — would be among the largest Navy ships ever lost.

It's already joined the ranks of significant noncombat fires and explosions that have occurred while ships have been at a state-side pier or anchored nearby.

In 1905, the gunboat Bennington blew up in San Diego Bay, kill-



CHRISTINA ROSS, U.S. NAVY/AP

Port of San Diego Harbor Police boats fight a fire aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard at Naval Base San Diego on Sunday. The fate of the ship has yet to be determined though some experts believe it can't be saved.

ing 65 sailors. In 1944, 322 people died when an ammunition ship exploded at a port north of San Francisco. Fifty people perished in 1960 when the carrier Constellation caught fire during the final stages of construction at the Brooklyn Naval Yard.

"We obviously don't know yet what happened here, but the dan-

gers in the industrial environment are well-understood," McGrath said. "Crews are grinding, welding, chipping — all those activities have the capacity to start a fire, and a ship is full of flammable materials."

McGrath, who spent 21 years in the Navy, including a stint as commander of the Bulkeley, a guided-

missile destroyer, said crews at sea are trained to set smoke and flame boundaries when a fire breaks out, limiting its spread to adjacent spaces.

"It's not like a structural fire; you can't just pour water on it from the outside," he said. "You have to be inside where the fire is, get to the source of it."

That's easier done if the ship is fully staffed. The Bonhomme Richard has about 1,000 sailors assigned to it. When it caught fire Sunday morning at Naval Base San Diego, about 160 people were on board.

Sixty-one people — 38 sailors and 23 civilians — were treated for minor injuries, including heat exhaustion and smoke inhalation, the Navy said.

An investigation will be "exhaustive," McGrath said, and probably last months.

Also to be determined is the fate of the ship, which cost \$761 million, according to estimates by the Federation of American Scientists, and was at the tail-end of a two-year, \$250 million upgrade. Navy officials said they are hopeful it will sail again, but some military observers — noting the extensive damage so far, including the collapse of the forward mast — believe it will have to be scrapped.

If the ship can't be saved, it would be one of the largest losses, in terms of size and tonnage, in Navy history. It's 844 feet long and weighs about 40,000 tons. The carrier Lexington, sunk during the World War II battle of the Coral Sea, was 888 feet and 47,000 tons.

Even if the ship is saved, it will be out of action for an extended period of time, and that will limit what the Navy can do in deploying its forces.

"Losing that ship, even if it's just for a while — it's a big deal," McGrath said.

Community donates to sailors who lost possessions in blaze

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

Donations for displaced sailors who lost possessions in the fire on the USS Bonhomme Richard are flowing in from the community, according to relief organizations in San Diego.

Naval Base Point Loma is providing emergency accommodation for 84 sailors who fled the vessel after a devastating fire, believed to have started in the ship's cargo hold, broke out Sunday morning, according to Senior Chief Petty Officer Jeremy Domagalski, a Bonhomme Richard sailor who is helping care for his displaced

crewmates.

The sailors who fled the vessel have lost all their possessions, Domagalski told Stars and Stripes in a telephone interview Monday.

"All they have are the clothes on their backs," he said.

Despite the trauma, the sailors are still putting in 12-hour shifts fighting the fire or providing support to the effort, he said.

"I'm right next to [the Bonhomme Richard]," he said. "They have helicopters going back and forth with the water trying to put the fire out."

The community is supporting the strick-

en sailors, Domagalski added.

"Sailors from other ships have rallied around and even the local community firefighters are helping," he said.

The Fleet and Family Support Center San Diego on its Facebook page Monday warned people to avoid scammers seeking donations for the sailors. It listed USO San Diego, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the Support the Enlisted Project as legitimate organizations seeking to help them.

USO San Diego executive director Ashley Camay said by phone Monday that people can drop donations off at its Liberty

Station location. Donations are already flowing in and there have been many calls from people seeking to donate, she said.

Those who want to help can drop off toiletries, gift cards to replace lost uniforms, food items or monetary donations there seven days a week.

"The USO can be the vetted resource for them to have a positive impact on these service members," Camay said.

People can also donate online at sandiego.uso.org and www.nmcrrs.org.

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Fire: Suppression system was turned off as part of ongoing maintenance

FROM FRONT PAGE

could be ready if any oil is spilled. It also halted boat and air traffic within a nautical mile of the vessel.

On Monday, health officials warned people to stay indoors as acrid smoke wafted across San Diego from one of the Navy's worst shipyard fires in recent years. At least 61 people, including 38 sailors and 23 civilians, have been treated for heat exhaustion, smoke inhalation and minor injuries. Five people who had been in a hospital under observation were released.

Some 400 sailors along with Navy helicopters and local and federal firefighters poured water on the cancer-like ship, which erupted in flames Sunday morning.

Rear Adm. Philip Sobeck said fire tem-

peratures had reached up to 1,000 degrees, causing the mast of the ship to collapse and threatening the central control island where the captain operates the vessel. He said there were about two decks between the fire and the fuel supplies.

Water being dumped on the vessel was causing the 840-foot ship to list to one side, but crews were pumping off the water.

Sobek said it was too soon to give up on saving the 23-year-old amphibious assault ship, which has been undergoing maintenance since 2018.

"I feel absolutely hopeful because we have sailors giving it their all," said Sobek, commander of Expeditionary Strike Group 3.

The fire was first reported in a lower

cargo area where seafaring tanks and landing craft are parked. It appears to have started where cardboard boxes, rags and other maintenance supplies were being stored, Sobek said.

A fire suppression system had been turned off because it was being worked on as part of the ongoing maintenance. The system uses Halon, a liquefied, compressed gas that disrupts a fire and stops its spread by cutting off its oxygen.

Sobek said there was no ordinance on board the ship and he did not believe there was anything toxic.

However, the flames were burning plastic, cabling and other materials, sending a haze over downtown San Diego. The San Diego Air Pollution Control District

warned that concentrations of fine particulate matter could reach unhealthy levels in some areas and that people should avoid exercising outdoors and stay indoors if possible to limit exposure.

Retired Navy Capt. Lawrence B. Brennan, a professor of international maritime law at Fordham University in New York, said there is a risk of the hull rupturing, which could cause the ship to spill its oil.

"If this is a million gallons of oil that ends up settling on the bottom of the San Diego Harbor and can't be removed safely, we're talking about billions of dollars of environmental damage," said Brennan, who has investigated and litigated hundreds of maritime cases.

MILITARY



ERIC PILGRIM/Fort Knox (Ky.) News

A Fort Knox, Ky., AAFES employee checks the fit of a new Army Green Service Uniform coat on a student recruit on July 8. The students, soon to graduate from the Army Recruiter Course at Fort Knox, are about to receive the World War II-style uniforms.

Future recruiters 1st to get Army's 'pinks and greens'

By DAVID EDGE
Stars and Stripes

Soldiers training to become recruiters at Fort Knox, Ky., were the first to receive the standard-issue Army Green Service Uniform, inspired by the pinkish-brown trousers and dark olive jackets worn by troops in World War II.

Students at Fort Knox's Recruiting and Retention College received the uniform, sometimes called "pinks and greens," early this month, the Army said in a statement.

"This is kind of cool, especially for the students, because they're going to be the face of the Army when they go out there," Sgt. 1st Class Wesley Wills, a recruiter course instructor, was quoted as saying in the statement. "To put them in the new uniform makes sense to me because they're going to be engaging the public."

The service greens offer a more casual alternative to the Army Service Uniform and are considered a better option for an office

setting, the Army said.

Soldiers will continue to wear their blue dress uniform for formal occasions, the Army said.

Before the rollout at Fort Knox, some 850 service green uniforms had been tried out for feedback by senior leaders, the Army Band, recruiters and the Old Guard ceremonial infantry unit.

Sgt. Rochelle Walsingham, a soldier at Fort Knox who received the retro-style polyester and wool mix uniform, said the new jackets are "a lot heavier and more durable than other jackets."

The AGSUs are also "more form-fitting" for women, she said in the statement.

"That was a big problem for the ASU for the females," Walsingham said.

Drill sergeants are expected to be the next group to receive the uniforms, the Army said. The uniform will be issued to new recruits in the fall and to other installations later this year, the statement said.

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Sailors, Marines must don formal uniforms around DC

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps have ordered service members to wear more formal uniforms while at the Pentagon and other sites in the National Capital Region to project a more professional look.

As of July 6, the Navy has restricted sailors from wearing Navy Working Uniform Type III and flight suits inside the Pentagon and Pentagon Library and Conference Hall, the Navy said in a message this month. The greenish-brown Type III uniform is the Navy's standard working attire.

Sailors may not wear them in the National Mall area that is bounded by Capitol Hill and the surrounding Senate and House Staff offices, the White House and Executive Office Building,

Department of State and all monuments and memorials, the Navy said.

A Marine Corps directive issued last month required its service members to wear the seasonal "B" or "C" uniforms while at the Pentagon. That uniform consists of olive-green trousers or skirt and a khaki shirt.

"We aligned the Navy-Marine Corps uniform policies in the National Capital Region and the Pentagon Reservation to demonstrate a unified, professional image of our integrated Naval Force," Ed Zeigler, a spokesman for Naval District Washington, told *Military.com*.

The district made the change in coordination with Navy and Marine Corps leadership, he said.

Sailors are exempted from the requirement if they are au-

thorized for a Joint Task Force National Capital Region mission, the Navy said. Exemptions are also made for Navy personnel on watch-standing duty in the National Military Command Center, Navy Operations Center and DiLorenzo Tricare Health Clinic.

Sailors wearing the Type III working uniform may stop outside Defense Department bases or installations for emergencies only.

"The NWU Type III may be worn as the alternate uniform of the day per commanding officer or officer-in-charge permission on DOD installations, commands and facilities within the [National Capital Region] other than the restricted areas," the Navy said.

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Marine Raiders earn Silver Star, Bronze Stars for heroism in Afghanistan mission

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

A special operations Marine was awarded the Silver Star for assaulting a bunker and recovering a wounded Afghan soldier during a four-hour gun battle with more than a dozen Taliban fighters in Afghanistan last year.

The Marine master sergeant, whose name was withheld, was a team chief with 2nd Marine Raider Battalion during the battle, Marine Forces Special Operations Command said in a statement Tuesday.

Three other team members earned Bronze Stars for valor during the operation, in which three enemy commanders were killed.

"The entire team remained calm, concise over the radios," the unnamed team leader was quoted as saying. "They were controlled, efficient, synchronized and ultimately brutally lethal to end that fight."

Marine Corps photos showed

the master sergeant critical skills operator, his face blurred, receiving the military's third-highest personal award for combat heroism Friday at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"During a heliborne raid into difficult enemy-controlled terrain in southern Afghanistan, he led his team of Marine Raiders and partner nation forces in four hours of close combat with more than a dozen Taliban fighters occupying defensive strongholds," the statement said, citing the award's narrative.

He took fire to lead the assault across 30 meters of open terrain, attacking Taliban fighters in a bunker with his rifle and hand grenades, before again braving accurate enemy fire to climb atop a building and set a roof charge in order to recover the wounded Afghan.

"With enemy fighters barricaded just a few feet away, he heroically pulled the wounded man to a covered position in a valiant attempt to save his life, while al-

lowing his team to engage the barricaded fighters with fragmentation grenades," the statement said.

Other team members attacked with small-arms fire, grenades and shoulder-fired rockets to suppress or destroy the enemy positions, it said.

Another critical skills operator, a special operations capability specialist and a special operations officer each earned Bronze Star Medals with Valor devices.

"The combined efforts of this Marine Raider team resulted in the complete destruction of a determined enemy, including three high-value enemy commanders," MARCOS said.

The statement did not identify the location of the battle. But the Marines have a long history in Helmand province, the Taliban's heartland and the deadliest province for coalition forces in the history of the war, now in its 19th year.

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US troops in Germany warned about potential for DUIs on e-scooters

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOHR, Germany — As coronavirus restrictions are eased in Germany and people venture back into bars and restaurants, U.S. troops are being warned against driving under the influence — including on the rentable electric scooters that have become ubiquitous in some cities.

"Under host-nation law and gar-

risson policy, DUI on a motorized scooter is the same as in a vehicle," said Jason S. Tudor, spokesman for U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz, home to Kaiserslautern and the biggest overseas U.S. military community.

E-scooters that can be rented with a smartphone app began appearing in Kaiserslautern in January, a few weeks before coronavirus restrictions forced many people to stay home. Since they were introduced, there have

been two cases of soldiers in the Rheinland-Pfalz area who have been charged with DUIs while operating one, Tudor said. There was also an e-scooter incident in 2019 involving excessive alcohol consumption and "a couple" of soldiers from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, based in Vilseck in Bavaria, regiment spokesman Maj. John Ambelang said.

The soldiers in Rheinland-Pfalz were charged under German laws and punished under the

Uniform Code of Military Justice, Tudor said.

"Punishment for DUI is levied by the soldier's command, which can include a wide range of actions," Tudor said. "Commanders, supervisors and leaders across the garrison provide continuous emphasis about the responsible use of alcohol and safe operation of an e-vehicle."

In Vilseck, the regiment "immediately reinforced to everyone" that operating an e-scooter while

impaired is against the law, Ambelang said. Under German law, a blood alcohol level of 0.05% is considered DUI for most people.

While the military has not restricted troops' use of e-scooters, service members are repeatedly told that "operating these devices while under the influence is illegal," Ambelang said.

Stars and Stripes reporters Chad Garland and Marcus Kloeckner contributed to this article.
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WAR/MILITARY

New commander takes over 48th Fighter Wing

By BRIAN FERGUSON
Stars and Stripes

Col. Jason Camilletti took command of the 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath, where he will help oversee the arrival of the first U.S. F-35 fighter jets to be based in Europe.

Camilletti, the former 48th Operations Group commander, called operating the F-35A Lightning II out of England "a game changer" for Europe during a ceremony Friday.

"We will continue to ensure that the airmen from RAF Lakenheath are always ready to own the skies, we will prioritize surety and conventional readiness with an emphasis on the high-end flight, and we will continue to make preparations for the

arrival of our first F-35A Lightning II late next year," Camilletti said in an Air Force statement.

Camilletti takes over from Col. Will Marshall, who will become the 3rd Air Force vice commander at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

"If you empower your people and have good people working for you, they will do tremendous things," Marshall said, according to the statement. "It's been an honor of a lifetime. We will miss you all."

Marshall's command saw the wing generate more than 21,000 sorties, 46,000 flying hours and deploy about 5,600 personnel to 26 countries, the statement said.

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CHRISTOPHER S. SPARKS/U.S. Air Force

Col. Jason Camilletti, the new 48th Fighter Wing commander, addresses the Liberty Wing for the first time during a change of command ceremony at RAF Lakenheath, England, on Friday.

Missing US airman returns to Osan base

From staff reports

SEOUL, South Korea — A U.S. airman who went missing last week returned safely to Osan Air Base on Tuesday nearly a week after he was reported absent from his unit, the military said.

The Air Force launched a

search for Staff Sgt. Tristin Blake Jarvis, 26, of the 51st Force Support Squadron on July 9, saying he was last seen in the vicinity of the Osan Fitness Center the day before, according to the 51st Fighter Wing.

Jarvis "safely reported to Osan Air Base" at about 4:15 p.m. Tues-

day, the 51st Fighter Wing said in a press release. The airman was reported absent from his unit on July 9.

"Team Osan is grateful to have Staff Sgt. Jarvis return to his Mustang family," wing commander Col. John Gonzales said.

He also expressed gratitude

to U.S. security forces teams, South Korean police, community partners and people on base "for quickly coming together and helping us locate him safely."

More details were not immediately provided.

Army officer dies in noncombat incident

WASHINGTON — An Army officer from Fort Campbell, Ky., died Sunday in a noncombat-related incident in Kandahar, Afghanistan, according to the Defense Department.

1st Lt. Joseph Trent Allbaugh, 44, from Folsom, Calif., was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th ADA Brigade. The fatal incident is under investigation.

Allbaugh attended Vanguard University of Southern California and graduated in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. He was commissioned through the ROTC as an Army air defense artillery officer and married his wife, Ashley Allbaugh.

Allbaugh's awards include the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

Pilot injured in F-16 crash in New Mexico

The pilot of an F-16 Flying Falcon ejected safely before the fighter jet crashed during landing at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., the 49th Wing said in a statement late Monday.

Emergency responders were on the scene after the crash, which happened at about 6 p.m., and the pilot — the only one aboard — was being treated for minor injuries, the statement said.

The wing, located at the base less than 10 miles southwest of Alamogordo, trains F-16 pilots.

It was the second incident since October in which a pilot safely ejected from a Flying Falcon from the base during a night training sortie.

An investigation was underway to determine the crash's cause, the 49th Wing said. No other details were immediately available.

From staff reports

Marine who drowned in Hawaii remembered

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Dozens of loved ones gathered in North Carolina late last week for a candlelight vigil in memory of a Marine who drowned in Hawaii last month.

Sgt. James Jayqon Parker, 26, of Rocky Mount, N.C., died two weeks ago, but funeral arrangements had not yet been finalized, a brief obituary on the website of the H.D. Pope Funeral Home in his hometown said.

"James was a brother that could never be replaced — he was a friend that could never be replaced. We started out as friends and we ended as brothers," said Darrius Epps, before being overcome with emotion during the memorial, which was livestreamed Friday on Facebook.

An infantryman with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Parker was pulled unresponsive from the water at Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Pyramid Rock Beach on June 28, said 1st Lt. Colin B. Kennard, a III Marine Expeditionary Force spokesman, in an emailed statement Monday.

Parker was pronounced dead after being transported to Castle Medical Center in Kailua.

His death was one of three recent Marine drownings.

On the East Coast, Lance Copl. David W. Hollinger, 20, was recovered unresponsive June 24, hours after he disappeared while swimming near the French Creek boat dock on Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was later declared dead.

On July 2, Sgt. Tyler M. Rankin, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., disappeared off the coast of Japan. The Marine assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni apparently drowned while going to the aid of two other swimmers who'd been swept offshore. His body was recovered July 7.

The Marine Corps is investigating to determine the facts surrounding Parker's death, Kennard said.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the Marine as we all grieve this tremendous loss," Kennard said.

Parker joined the service in December 2015. About two months before his death, he posted photos from his promotion to sergeant.

"Walked in to my promotion and I didn't even know," he wrote in the May post. "But I'm thankful and glad I'm a Sgt now!"

His awards and decorations included the Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, said a service history Kennard provided.



JAMES PARKER/Facebook

Sgt. James Jayqon Parker was promoted to sergeant in this image posted May 7. Parker drowned off Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Pyramid Rock Beach on June 28.

Parker had deployed to Okinawa, Japan, for six months in 2019.

Fellow Marines in Hawaii and North Carolina expressed their grief in online posts. Marines from Camp Hansen in Okinawa donated money via the funeral home website to have a tree planted in his memory.

Harold Hyman, a former Marine who said Parker was his cousin, posted the news to a Facebook group for Marine veterans shortly after the family was notified.

"Brothers and Sisters please say a prayer for James Parker and his family today," Hyman wrote. "I love you Cuz! Semper Fi."

Parker was the father of a young son who attended the memorial Friday with Parker's mother. His friends presented them with face

masks printed with Parker's name and rank, which some friends also wore.

After remembering Parker's sense of humor and sharing memories, the friends and family released blue and black balloons into the sky, a video streamed live on Facebook by user Cynthia A. Brewer showed.

"This is going to be something that's going to take a long time to get used to," said Epps, his close friend, who talked about their days together on the high school marching band. "I stay strong as I can because of the simple fact that I know that if James was beside me, James would be telling me, 'We're in this together.'"

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MILITARY

Marines to house new arrivals on base in Okinawa

By DAVE ORNAUER
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — New arrivals to Marine Corps bases in Okinawa will no longer stay in local hotels during their 14-day coronavirus quarantine but will instead be lodging on Camp Foster, the Marines announced Tuesday.

The Marine Corps on Okinawa was struck with a cluster of coronavirus cases last week that has created several dozen infections at three bases so far: Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Camp Hansen and Camp Kinser.

Marines and their families arriving for permanent changes of station have been quarantined in recent weeks on Marine bases and at the DoubleTree by Hilton Okinawa Chatan Resort. Complaints of their presence in town have surfaced in local and national Japanese media.

The new cases are another complication in a sometimes-tense relationship between Okinawa and the U.S. military. Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki said it was “extremely regrettable” that so many cases had surged among U.S. personnel in just a week.

The “decision was made that all new inbound personnel will be housed on base,” after representatives of Marine Corps Installation Command met with Okinawa prefectural government officials Tuesday, Marine spokesman Maj. Ken Kunze said in an email to Stars and Stripes on Tuesday.

“It’s about being gracious to our hosts and making them feel comfortable,” he added during a follow-up phone call that day.

The Kadena cases are the first there since three were reported in late March. The air base has imposed restrictions on use of some of its facilities and off-base dining and entertainment.

Also, Air Force personnel from Kadena may travel to MCAS Futenma and Camps Hansen and Kinser only on official business. They have also been urged to limit their travel to and from other Marine bases on the island. Activity and movement on those

campus are restricted.

Tracing the affected individual’s contacts found no exposure to anyone in the local community, according to a post late Monday on the official base Facebook page. Health authorities are continuing to look for additional exposures, the post states.

At the Marines’ Camp Foster, personnel waiting in base lodging to leave the island will be moved to the DoubleTree by Hilton Okinawa Chatan Resort to make way for inbound personnel, Kunze said.

At no time will the two populations be allowed to mix, he said.

“It’s a decision we thought was prudent ... between base officials and the Okinawa prefectural government,” Kunze said. “It eases concerns, knowing [inbound personnel and their families] are coming on base and staying on base.”

Also Tuesday, the health official said 130 Japanese bar and nightclub employees in Chatan village, a popular nightlife district, were tested en masse on Sunday by the prefectural government. All came back negative.

It’s customary in Japan for some government officials to speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

Local authorities were concerned about a possible outbreak in Chatan due to exposure to military personnel there over the Fourth of July weekend, the official said. Bars and clubs in town have been off-limits to service members since coronavirus restrictions were imposed March 27.

“Currently, we receive many phone calls from employees who work on base with some symptoms,” the health official said.

Anyone with coronavirus symptoms or who had possible contact with those who test positive have testing priority, the official said.

The prefecture is working on plans to hold another mass test for Japanese base employees exhibiting symptoms, the health official said.

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“It’s a decision we thought was prudent ... between base officials and the Okinawa prefectural government. It eases concerns [inbound personnel and their families] are ... staying on base”

Maj. Ken Kunze
Marine spokesman



Luis A. Deva/U.S. Army

U.S. Army critical care nurses work alongside Baptist Hospital medical staff to provide medical care to a COVID-19 patient in San Antonio, Texas, on Friday, July 10.

Military personnel deployed to help medical facilities fight virus

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas and California will receive about 740 military medical and support personnel as part of ongoing coronavirus operations as the number of infected people in those states continues to climb, U.S. Army North announced Monday.

Troops from the Army, Navy and Air Force were sent Monday at the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state officials and will primarily help civilian medical staff in their facilities.

“We are committed to assisting those in need as part of the ongoing whole-of-America response to [coronavirus],” said Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, commander of U.S. Army North, which will oversee operations. “At the same time, we remain flexible and capable of providing other defense support to civil authorities as necessary.”

Texas will receive the bulk of the support, about 580 military medical and support personnel from the Army and Navy, which will be focused on Houston and San Antonio, according to the news release.

The state reported 5,655 new coronavirus cases Monday and has seen more than 264,000 positive cases total since the pandemic began, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. A reported 3,235 people in

Texas have died from the virus.

About 160 military medical and support personnel from the Air Force will deploy to California to support FEMA and the state, where 8,460 new coronavirus cases were reported Sunday, according to the California Department of Public Health. The state now has a total of 320,804 positive cases and a total of 7,017 deaths.

Texas’s first troops, an 85-member enhanced Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force from the 627th Hospital Center, Fort Carson, Colo., arrived in San Antonio on July 6 and began treating patients at five San Antonio area hospitals three days later. Its soldiers come from several locations, including Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced Friday that a second 85-member team will arrive Monday in Houston.

“Texas is grateful to the U.S. Department of Defense for providing these additional resources to Houston and San Antonio as we work to slow the spread of [coronavirus] and care for our fellow Texans,” Abbott said in a statement. “We will continue to work with our local and federal partners to help ensure that all medical needs are met in Houston, San Antonio, and throughout the state.”

Four more 85-person Army teams, along with a 44-person Acute Care Team and four seven-

person Rapid Rural Response Teams from the Navy were also activated for statewide efforts in Texas.

“It’s an honor to be in San Antonio, Texas, providing care to patients alongside local hospital staff,” said Army Capt. Sarah Kopaciewicz, a critical care nurse embedded with Christus Westover Hills Medical Center. “I was doing similar work, treating [coronavirus] patients, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State before being employed here.”

In addition to Christus Westover Hills Medical Center, critical care nurses, emergency room nurses, medical surgical nurses, and respiratory specialists from the 627th Hospital Center are serving at Baptist Health Center, Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center, Methodist Metropolitan and University Hospital.

“Our soldiers train daily to maintain clinical skills so we can save and sustain lives wherever and whenever the nation calls,” said Army Lt. Col. Jason Hughes, commander of the 627th’s team in San Antonio. “We’re proud to be here to support FEMA and Texas, and will work side by side with hospital workers to help communities as long as we are needed.”

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MILITARY

At West Point, it's 'Ten-hut, mask on'

By MICHAEL HILL

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — New cadet candidates arriving at the U.S. Military Academy on Monday were promptly tested for COVID-19, stood at attention in face masks and were given shout-out orders to wash their hands.

The transition from civilian to West Point cadet is different for the Class of 2024 as the academy adapts to the pandemic, starting with Reception Day, or R-Day.

Reception Day still ushers in an intense period of training that introduces new arrivals to the rigors of cadet life. But this year, older cadets barked orders through face masks. New cadets will still have to endure the weeks of drills, marches and exertions of Cadet Basic Training, unofficially known as "Beast Barracks." But that training will be two weeks shorter this year.

"I know that it's shorter, but I trust it will be the same experience overall. I'll still get to know all my classmates," said Justin Suess of Batavia, Ill. "I am prepared. I've been exercising hard."

The more than 1,220 new cadets this year are arriving over three days, from Sunday through Tuesday, instead of one Reception Day, as usual.

New arrivals dropped off by their parents Monday morning took a goodbye hug before being tested for COVID-19. Results come back in an hour or so. Those who test positive — as four did Sunday — will be isolated for weeks but will still take part in training.

Hundreds of new cadets spent Monday being hustled around in groups for the traditional round of uniform fittings, buzz cuts and lining up. They were ordered to "Hurry Up!" and "Move With a Purpose!" but also "Wash Your Hands!" at an outdoor water station. At another station, older cadets shouted orders to the new arrivals from behind a see-through plastic sheet. New cadets marched in socially distant intervals.

"We can mitigate exposure as much as possible, but we can't eliminate it. What we can do is



PHOTOS BY MARK LENNIGAN/AP

A cadet leads a formation of new cadets Monday at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. Candidates will be COVID-19 tested upon arrival, wear masks and practice social distancing.

prevent transit from one person to the next by adhering to strict, non-pharmaceutical interventions," said Lt. Col. Robert Kinney, who is in charge of R-Day operations.

All new cadets will be monitored and spend most of their time in cohorts of 35 to 40, said Brig. Gen. Curtis A. Buzzard, commandant of cadets.

Though this year's Cadet Basic Training has been shortened from six weeks to four, Buzzard said he's confident they will be well trained.

They will still shoot, rappel, march, drill, navigate, spend four nights in field training and throw a live hand grenade, he said, though some training will be deferred until next summer.

"I still think we have a very good plan to acculturate them to West Point and the Army," Buzzard said.

The changes in training mirror those made by the other service academies this summer, as well as by the military in general.

Army soldiers undergoing Basic Combat Training are moni-



A West Point cadet reads the New Cadet Handbook on Monday, his first day at the U.S. Military Academy.

tored and initially have limited contact with others for 14 days as they focus on academic training. Members of the smaller cadres then join the rest of the trainees for the remaining weeks of training.

At West Point, new cadets will be formally accepted into the Corps of Cadets after training.

Class of 2021 Cadet Morgan Ammons of Fort Knox, Ky., is

especially pleased that the Class of 2024 includes Dylan Ammons, her younger sister, who arrived Sunday for training.

"I think it will be a little more challenging," said the elder Ammons. "They're still doing all the things that are required of them in the six weeks in four weeks. So it will be a little more fast paced."

Naval Academy mids set to return

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — First and second class midshipmen will begin to return to the Naval Academy in Annapolis in about a week under a staggered plan.

The midshipmen's return will start on or about July 20, Naval Academy spokeswoman Cmdr. Alana Garas told the Capital Gazette on Friday.

The fall semester will feature in-person and online classes.

Students will be tested for the coronavirus when they return to campus.

Their movements will be restricted for 14 days, and they will undergo another test at the end of that period.

Garas said midshipmen will be six feet apart and wear masks during classes.

Tents will soon be set up on campus to expand the space where students can eat their meals.

Students completed the last semester with online learning from their homes around the nation due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In May, the academy held its first-ever virtual graduation and commissioning ceremony.

But last month, Vice Adm. Sean Buck, the superintendent, told the academy's Board of Visitors that while academics can be done online, the other two pillars of the school's mission statement — developing midshipmen morally and physically — require hands-on experiences on campus.

"We cannot develop leaders for our nation's military services online," Buck said at the time.

Freshmen, known as plebes, already arrived at the academy. The Navy asked them to show up with their hair already cut to regulation and each received a temperature check and coronavirus test before being allowed onto campus.

The academy notified plebes' parents Friday that a yearly event for families originally scheduled for August has been indefinitely postponed.

"After thorough consideration and consultation with my entire leadership team, including USNA's health professionals, I believe this is a necessary decision in order to safeguard the health and welfare of the entire Naval Academy family and local community," Buck wrote in a letter to parents.

Fort Sill teen, who tested positive for virus, dies in hospital

By ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — The 13-year-old child of a Fort Sill, Okla., service member had tested positive for coronavirus and died Friday in an area hospital, according to local officials.

Officials for the base did not say whether contracting coronavirus resulted in the teenager's death at Comanche County Memorial Hospital, located in Lawton, the city just outside the gates of Fort Sill. However, Oklahoma classified the teen as the state's first person younger than 17 years old to die from the coronavirus.

"Our entire Lawton-Fort Sill community is deeply saddened. Our greatest condolences go out to the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them in this difficult and sad time," Maj. Gen. Ken Kamper, commander of Fort Sill, said in a statement.

The family members received notification of a positive coronavirus test result and are isolating in their on-base residence in Comanche County, according to base officials. The family is also following all protective measures outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Reynolds Army Health Clinic, the hospital at Fort Sill, will con-

tinue to support the county in tracing where contact with others on the base might have occurred and will notify those individuals who might have been impacted and who fall under the guidelines for additional monitoring and testing — an effort lead off base by the Comanche County Health Department.

"We will continue to work alongside our local health partners to fight coronavirus," according to a base news release. "The health and safety of our service members, families, work force and the entire Lawton-Fort Sill community remains our top priority."

No further information will be released about the dependent to respect the family and comply with Defense Department guidance.

Fort Sill is home to the Fires Center of Excellence, which conducts training for field artillery soldiers and officers, as well as Marines. About 7,800 service members are permanently stationed at Fort Sill, while it supports about 9,000 trainees daily, according to the base information guide. It has more than 81,000 acres divided into three ranges for training.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/ALP

A bartender mixes a drink while wearing a mask and face shield at Slater's 50/50 in Santa Clarita, Calif.

Governor shuts down bars, dining as California hit hard

By ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — As the coronavirus swept California with renewed ferocity, the governor once again closed bars, inside dining and, for much of the state, gyms, indoor church services and hair and nail salons in an effort to prevent COVID-19 cases from swamping hospitals.

Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a sweeping set of closures Monday as the state recorded more than 329,000 cases and deaths topped 7,000. Hospitalizations have surged by 28% in the past two weeks, including a 20% increase in patients requiring intensive care.

That was lower than a 50% hike seen about a week ago, but Newsom said he was concerned about the future and implored people to maintain social distance, wear masks in public and stay home when possible.

"COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon, until there is a vaccine and/or an effective therapy," Newsom said.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles and San Diego school districts, the two largest in California with a combined K-12 student population of about 720,000, announced Monday they won't bring students back to classrooms next month because of rising coronavirus hospitalizations and infection rates.

Earlier in the pandemic California closed beaches, campgrounds and state parks as it sought to limit interactions of people from different households. But as data showed the virus was most likely to be transmitted indoors, the Newsom administration began modifying public health orders, including ordering people to wear face coverings and leaving outdoor activities alone.

On Monday, the governor ordered restaurants to stop serving

customers indoors and told bars, wineries, movie theaters, zoos, museums, cardrooms and other indoor entertainment venues to shut down.

Shutdowns went even further in some of the 30 counties on a state watch list because of worrying rises in disease transmission, especially from people mingling without heeding safety guidelines. The listed counties account for roughly 80% of California's population.

Those that have been on the list for three days now must restrict indoor operations for hair and nail salons, tattoo parlors, gym shopping malls and houses of worship.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti immediately implemented the shutdowns and warned that the city was "on the verge" of raising its COVID-19 threat level from orange to red — the highest level — and resorting to shutting down all but essential

Task force official: Control virus before returning to school

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A top member of the White House coronavirus task force said Tuesday that "none of us lie" to the public, an accusation President Donald Trump had retweeted, and that while kids need to be back in school as Trump has insisted, "we have to get the virus under control."

Adm. Brett Giroir's comment came a day after Trump shared a Twitter post from a former game show host who, without evidence, accused government medical experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among others, of "lying."

Trump himself has at times disregarded the advice of his medical experts on the task force and continues to play down the threat from the virus as it spikes across the country, forcing some states to slow or reverse steps to reopen their economies.

Asked on NBC's "Today," whether the CDC and other doctors are lying, Giroir allowed that mistakes have been made and that public guidance is updated when more is learned about the virus, "but none of us lie. We are completely transparent with the American people."

Trump has said on several occasions that the virus will "just disappear." Giroir, Assistant Sec-

retary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said that is unlikely "unless we take active steps to make it disappear." He appealed to people to wear masks, practice social distancing and to avoid bars and other tightly packed areas.

With virus cases spiking in the United States and the death toll mounting, the White House has worked to undercut its most trusted coronavirus expert, playing down the danger as Trump pushes to get the economy moving before he faces voters in November.

The U.S. has become a cautionary tale across the globe, with once-falling cases now spiraling. Trump has suggested, however, that the severity of the pandemic which has killed more than 135,000 Americans is being overstated by critics to damage his reelection chances.

Trump on Monday retweeted a post by Chuck Woolery, one-time host of TV's "Love Connection," claiming that "Everyone is lying" about COVID-19. Woolery's tweet attacked not just the media and Democrats, but also the CDC and most doctors "that we are told to trust. I think it's all about the election and keeping the economy from coming back, which is about the election."

Fla. reports highest one-day death total

By MARC FREEMAN
Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Florida's COVID-19 emergency had equal measures of hope and despair Tuesday, with a record number of new deaths but a drop-off in new cases.

The state Department of Health reported that 4,514 people have died since the pandemic began, an increase of 132 since Monday's report. It's the latest in a two-week trend of a rising death rate.

But Tuesday's report of 9,194 new cases of the highly infectious disease was the lowest number since Thursday.

The state has been down this path before with days of declining cases only to veer back into record-setting territory.

The previous two days brought a U.S. record with 15,300 cases on Sunday, followed by 12,624 cases on Monday.

In another troubling sign, the

positivity rate, a key figure to indicate the prevalence of the disease, increased again. The rate Tuesday was 15%, up from Monday's 11.51% but still off last Wednesday's peak of 18.4%.

In May, Florida's positivity rate hovered around 5%.

Public health experts have said that a positivity rate of 10% or less is optimal. The World Health Organization has recommended a positivity rate of 5% before countries start to reopen.

South Florida, which accounts for 29% of Florida's population, reported 3,893 new cases in the past day, or 42.3% of the total.

The number of people being treated for COVID-19 at hospitals continued to increase. The total is 8,253 patients statewide, as of midday Tuesday. It's an increase of 181 since Monday, according to the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration.

Trump administration to recommend the National Guard as option to help hospitals

By LENA H. SUN
AND AMY GOLDSTEIN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is poised to ask governors to consider sending in the National Guard to hospitals to help improve data collection about coronavirus patients, supplies and capacity, according to draft letters, internal emails and hospital industry officials familiar with the plans.

A letter, to be sent to governors imminently, backs away from earlier drafts that had directed state leaders to deploy the National

Guard to help hospitals with daily data submissions. It now includes the National Guard among states' options for improving the data flow, according to two senior administration officials and one industry official who was informed Monday about the final version.

Still, even the possibility of National Guard involvement has infuriated hospital industry leaders, who say any data collection problems lie primarily with the Department of Health and Human Services and repeatedly changing federal instructions. The idea of bringing in the Guard was first broached at a late June

meeting by Deborah Birk, the White House coronavirus task force response coordinator, according to two hospital industry officials who attended and spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private discussions.

Given our track record of being cooperative to evolving data requests, it's perplexing that the possibility of using the National Guard has been suggested," said Rick Pollack, president of the American Hospital Association. "It makes no sense. Certainly the expertise of the National Guard can be used in a more productive way."

VIRUS OUTBREAK



CHRISTOPHE EN/AP

Soldiers wearing face masks adjust their bayonets, prior to the Bastille Day parade Tuesday on the Champs Elysees avenue in Paris.

France celebrates virus heroes on newly redesigned Bastille Day

By ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

PARIS — Medics in white coats replaced uniformed soldiers as stars of France's Bastille Day ceremonies Tuesday, as the usual grandiose military parade in Paris was recalibrated to honor medics who died fighting COVID-19, supermarket cashiers, postal workers and other heroes of the pandemic.

Yet for thousands of participants in a protest across town, the national homage wasn't nearly enough to make up for mistakes by French President Emmanuel Macron and his government before and during the coronavirus pandemic. Riot police sprayed tear gas and unruly demonstrators hurled smoke bombs as the largely peaceful demonstrators marched to Bastille plaza, where the French Revolution was born on July 14, 1789.

The contrasting scenes marked a Bastille Day unlike any other, overshadowed by fears of resurgent infections in a country where more than 30,000 people have already lost their lives to the coronavirus.

With tears in their eyes or smiles on their faces, medical workers stood silently as lengthy applause in their honor rang out over the Place de la Concorde in central Paris from Macron, the head of the World Health Organization and 2,000 other guests. A military choir sang the Marseillaise national anthem, and troops unfurled an enormous French tricolor flag across the plaza.

The battle against the virus was the main focus, as Macron sought to highlight France's successes in combating its worst crisis since World War II. Mirage and Rafale fighter jets painted the sky with blue-white-and-red smoke, and were joined by helicopters that had transported COVID-19 patients in distress.

The guests included nurses, doctors, supermarket and nursing home workers, mask makers, lab technicians, undertakers and others who kept France going during its strict nationwide lockdown. Families of medical workers who died with the virus also had a place in the stands.

Medics in jeans or sandals strolled onto the plaza for the climax of the ceremony, and the

lengthy military parade was truncated into a smaller affair closed to the public to prevent new virus infections.

In eastern Paris, meanwhile, medical workers' unions marched to decry years of cost cuts that left public hospitals ill-prepared when the virus raced across France.

"We are enormously short of personnel," said protester Sylvie Pecard, a nurse at the Saint-Louis Hospital in Paris who described colleagues falling ill with the virus as COVID-19 patients filled its wards. "It's because we haven't recruited nurses. I came here 20 years ago and there were no empty positions. Now all the services are short of personnel, and it's worse and worse."

Other protesters chanted slogans against police violence, spoke out against racial injustice, or against Macron policies seen as favoring the wealthy, or against his decision to appoint a man accused of rape to oversee French police forces. Some protesters wore yellow vests, representing their movement against economic injustice — or face masks in the same neon yellow shade.

Concerns stimulate renewed efforts in fighting outbreaks

By DANICA KIRKA
AND DENNIS PASSA
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain and France announced Tuesday they will require people to wear face masks in public indoor spaces and an Australian state threatened to jail anyone caught violating quarantines, amid rising global fears about a resurgence of the pandemic.

"We are not out of the woods yet, so let us all do our utmost to keep this virus cornered and enjoy summer safely," British Health Secretary Matt Hancock told lawmakers in the House of Commons.

British officials announced the requirement after weeks of dismissing the value of masks, and said it will take effect July 24. In France, President Emmanuel Macron said masks will be required by Aug. 1, after recent rave parties in France and widespread backsliding on social distancing raised concerns that the virus may be starting to rebound.

Meanwhile, officials in the Australian state of Queensland said those breaking quarantine rules could face up to six months in jail.

The current set of fines for breaking a mandatory 14-day hotel quarantine for some visitors or lying about their whereabouts "appears not to be enough" in some cases, Queensland Deputy Premier Steven Miles said.

With higher fines and a threat of six months imprisonment, "I hope that will demonstrate to the public just how serious we are about enforcing these measures," Miles said.

Queensland shut its state borders to successfully contain the coronavirus outbreak, but reopened to all but residents of Victoria, Australia's worst affected region, two weeks ago.

The city of Melbourne in Victoria recorded 270 new coronavirus infections overnight, with more than 4,000 cases now active across the state. Melbourne is one week into a six-week lockdown in an attempt to stop a spike in new cases there.

In China, Disney officials announced that Hong Kong Disneyland Park is closing Wednesday until further notice following the city's decision to ban public gatherings of more than four people to combat newly spreading infections.

Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, announced new coronavirus-related restrictions on Monday after 41 out of 52 newly reported infections were locally transmitted cases. Hong Kong has reported 250 new cases since July 6. Lam urged the private sector to put in place work-from-home arrangements for employees.

In Thailand, where there have been no reports of locally transmitted cases for seven weeks, authorities have revised rules governing visitors. Fun for abroad after a breakdown in screening led to two infected foreigners posing a possible risk to public health.

The government said Tuesday that diplomats will be asked to stay in state-supervised quarantine for 14 days, instead of self-isolating. And it is postponing the recently allowed entry of some foreign visitors so procedures can be changed.

"I am angry because this shouldn't happen. They should have been quarantined, same as Thais who travel back have to be quarantined for 14 days. Why should this group of people get the privilege to skip quarantine?" said Pannepan Sakulkrui, a company manager who was among travelers who lined up for virus tests in the Thai city of Rayong on Tuesday.

VA's post-pandemic plan: Expand health care services at Walmart

By STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie said the agency's telehealth services at Walgreens will expand in parts of the country with limited access to the agency's hospitals, calling the move the "wave of the future."

Wilkie said the agency's plan to have a larger footprint in areas where it is more difficult to get to a hospital will kick off after the coronavirus pandemic starts to wind down. Since the VA and Walmart announced their private-public partnership last year,

five telehealth centers have been opened in stores in mostly rural parts of the country and at Veterans' centers of Foreign Wars sites.

"When [the pandemic] winds down, it's Walmart's intent to start moving more of these facilities," Wilkie said in a recent call with reporters. "Walmart has plans to move more rapidly once this [pandemic] is over."

Wilkie did not say how many new sites are planned.

The first site was set up in Asheboro, N.C., in December. Since then, the VA has centers set up in Walgreens in Boone, N.C., Howell, Mich., Keokuk, Iowa, and Fond du Lac, Wis. All locations,

however, are temporarily closed due to coronavirus concerns.

At each Walmart telehealth site, the store donates the equipment and space. The VA said most medications can be prescribed on-site and delivered to the veteran's home. Services vary at each location but may include primary care, nutrition, mental health and social work.

The VA's VFW telehealth sites are in Eureka, Mo., Los Banos, Calif., Linesville, Pa., Gowana, N.Y., and Athens, Texas. Only the Eureka location is open right now. Each location at VFWs and Walgreens are partnered with a major VA hospital in the state.

According to the VA, nearly 25% of veterans live in rural areas, half of whom are older than 65 and much more likely to be enrolled in the VA health care system and have a lower income than veterans who live in cities.

Veterans in rural areas could also have issues accessing high-speed internet needed for telehealth, which connects patients with doctors for therapy or to discuss medical treatments. In some cases, veterans outside of urban areas might live hours away from VA hospitals or face other travel limitations.

Telehealth options can make VA care easier to access and

eases the burden of long travel times to appointments. In 2019, there were more than 1.3 million video telehealth appointments with more than 490,000 veterans, according to the department.

"They can do routine things, basic hearing and eye tests and things like that. But I see it as the wave of the future for mental health. This puts veterans in a comfortable setting. It doesn't force them or their families to travel long distances. And it doesn't force them into what could be in many cases an unfriendly, large clinical setting," Wilkie said.

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NATION

US carries out 1st federal execution in 17 years

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., — The federal government on Tuesday carried out its first execution in almost two decades, killing by lethal injection a man convicted of murdering an Arkansas family in a 1990s plot to build a whites-only nation in the Pacific Northwest.

The execution of Daniel Lewis Lee came over the objection of the victims' relatives and following days of legal wrangling and delays.

Lee, 47, of Yukon, Okla., professed his innocence just before he was executed at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind.

"I didn't do it," Lee said. "I've made a lot of mistakes in my life, but I'm not a murderer."

His final words were: "You're killing an innocent man."

The decision to move forward with the first execution by the Bureau of Prisons since 2003 — and two others scheduled later in the week — drew scrutiny from civil rights groups and the relatives



Daniel Lee, seen in 1997, was killed by lethal injection Tuesday in the first federal government execution in nearly two decades.

of Lee's victims, who had sued to try to halt it, citing concerns about the coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic has killed more than 135,000 people in the United States and is ravaging prisons nationwide.

Critics argued that the government was creating an unnecessary and manufactured urgency for political gain.

The developments are likely to add a new front to the national conversation about criminal justice reform in the lead-up to the 2020 elections.

The execution of Lee, who died at 8:07 a.m. EDT, went off after a series of legal volleys that ended when the Supreme Court stepped in early Tuesday in a 5-4 ruling and allowed it to move forward.

Attorney General William Barr has said the Justice Department has a duty to carry out the sentences imposed by the courts, including the death penalty, and to bring a sense of closure to the victims and those in the communities where the killings happened.

But relatives of those killed by Lee in 1996 strongly opposed that idea and long argued that

Lee deserved a sentence of life in prison. They wanted to be present to counter any contention that the execution was being done on their behalf.

They noted that Lee's co-defendant and the reputed ringleader, Chevie Kehoe, received a life sentence.

Kehoe, of Colville, Wash., recruited Lee in 1995 to join his white supremacist organization, known as the Aryan Peoples' Republic. Two years later, they were arrested for the killings of gun dealer William Mueller, his wife, Nancy, and her 8-year-old daughter, Sarah Powell, in Tilly, Ark., about 75 miles northwest of Little Rock.

A U.S. District Court judge put a hold on Lee's execution Monday, over concerns from death row inmates on how executions were to be carried out, and an appeals court upheld it, but the high court overturned it. That delay came after an appeals court Sunday overturned a hold that had been put in place last week after the victims' relatives argued they

would be put at high risk for the coronavirus if they had to travel to attend the execution.

Two other federal executions are scheduled for later this week, though one remains on hold in a separate legal claim.

There have been two state executions in the U.S. since the pandemic forced shutdowns nationwide in mid-March — one in Texas and one in Missouri, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Alabama carried out one in early March.

Executions on the federal level have been rare, and the government has put to death only three defendants since restoring the federal death penalty in 1988 — most recently in 2003, when Louis Jones was executed for the 1995 kidnapping, rape and murder of a young female soldier.

Though there hadn't been a federal execution since 2003, the Justice Department has continued to approve death penalty prosecutions and federal courts have sentenced defendants to death.

Top defense firms getting biggest share of accelerated virus funds

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg

The largest share of the Pentagon's billions of dollars in accelerated payments to contractors — intended to help mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic — is going to four of the country's five biggest defense companies.

Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon Technologies, Northrop Grumman and the United Launch Alliance joint venture are the top beneficiaries of the Pentagon effort, according to a previously undisclosed May 15 letter to Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., from Ellen Lord, the Defense Department's undersecretary for acquisition and sustainment.

The companies are benefiting from a policy the Pentagon announced in March, just as the pandemic was building in the U.S., that provided for faster, and bigger, payments to companies.

According to figures previously released by Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed, it appears to be the single biggest recipient of the Pentagon's action. The company has said it's received \$1.1 billion out of a total that Lord has estimated would be about \$3 billion.

The Defense Department's move meant that larger firms could get as much as 90% of their payments for contracts in progress, up from 80% previously. For smaller businesses, which might be more susceptible to virus impacts, the rate rose to 95% from 90%.

"Disturbances to prime contractors include payments to all tiers of its supply chain," Lord wrote in the letter obtained by Bloomberg News. Lord said she expected the increased, accelerated rates to continue

"until the national emergency is over."

The Pentagon's move was intended to guarantee that critical national security contracts — including the production of key weapons systems and supplies — weren't interrupted by companies having problems accessing cash or credit. The extra funding would ensure production lines were able to stay open.

After the program was announced, Warren, who serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee, expressed concern about its oversight. In particular, she questioned whether companies might try to divert the increased payments for stock buybacks, dividends or executive pay.

Lord said that hasn't been the case.

"These payments represent costs incurred on our contracts and therefore are used to pay those associated bills (e.g. supplier costs, labor costs)," Lord wrote.

In some cases, "major prime contractors used corporate funds to accelerate payments to at-risk suppliers in advance of payments received from DoD," Lord continued.

In Warren's original request, she also sought insight into how the Pentagon was overseeing contractor requests for accelerated payments.

According to Lord, officials with the Defense Contract Management Agency conduct "triweekly phone calls with industry associations and major prime contractors and other regularly established forums."

Lord declined to put a timeline on when the Pentagon policy would end, citing uncertainty around the COVID-19 outbreak as cases in the U.S. continue to soar.

Former VA staffer faces 7 murder counts

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE
Associated Press

A former staffer at a Veterans Affairs hospital in West Virginia is being charged with killing seven patients by giving them fatal doses of insulin, accord-

ing to court documents unsealed Tuesday.

Reta Mays, a former nursing assistant at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center in Clarksburg, W.Va., is being charged with second degree murder in the deaths

of seven people and assault with the intent to commit murder of an eighth person.

Mays' attorney did not immediately return a voicemail seeking comment. She had a plea hearing scheduled for Tuesday.



LM Ortega/AP

Dallas County election worker Mark Bracken, left, checks in a voter at a polling station Tuesday in Richardson, Texas.

Texans head to polls for runoff amid virus

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — As Texas struggles to contain a raging coronavirus outbreak, voters on Tuesday were heading out to polls for runoff elections that include choosing a Democratic nominee in a U.S. Senate race that offers the party another chance to break through in America's biggest red state.

Texas has become one of the world's virus hot zones and is in far worse shape now than when the runoff was postponed in March. Last week was the deadliest of the pandemic for Texas, and Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has warned that the infection numbers will likely get even worse.

Abbott did not include polling places in his recent statewide mask order, and unlike many states, Texas has fought efforts to expand mail-in balloting during the pandemic. More than 1 mil-

lion ballots were cast in early voting — higher than most primary runoffs in recent years — but only a fraction of the state's 16 million registered voters.

The election will settle primary battles that include President Donald Trump's former doctor, Ronny Jackson, trying to win the Republican nomination for a rural congressional seat. But the biggest race is who Democrats will pick as their Senate nominee to face Republican incumbent John Cornyn — who isn't as threatened as several GOP senators in battleground states, but is confronting new signs of vulnerability in rapidly changing Texas.

The Senate runoff is between Air Force veteran MJ Hegar, who narrowly lost a race for a House seat in 2018, and state Sen. Royce West, who if he wins would become Texas' first Black U.S. senator.

NATION

Monthly US budget deficit hits all-time high of \$864B

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal government incurred the biggest monthly budget deficit in history in June as spending on programs to combat the coronavirus recession exploded while millions of job losses cut into tax revenues.

The Treasury Department reported Monday that the deficit hit \$864 billion last month, an amount of red ink that surpasses most annual deficits in the nation's history and is above the previous monthly deficit record of \$738 billion in April. That amount was also tied to the trillions of dollars Congress has provided to cushion the impact of the widespread shutdowns that occurred in an effort to limit the spread of the viral pandemic.

For the first nine months of this budget year, which began Oct. 1, the deficit totals \$2.74 trillion, also a record for that period. That puts the country well on the way to hitting the \$3.7 trillion deficit for the whole year that has been forecast by the Congressional Budget Office. That total would surpass the previous annual record of \$1.4 trillion set in 2009 when the government was spending heavily to lift the country out of the recession caused by the 2008 financial crisis.

The June deficit was driven higher by spending on various government relief programs such as an extra \$600 per week in expanded unemployment benefits and a Paycheck Protection Program that provided support to businesses to keep workers on their payrolls.

The report showed that the cost of the Paycheck Protection Program in June was \$511 billion. That reflected a charge to the government for all the bank loans made under the program even though the government will not actually have to pay out funds until the banks determine whether the businesses met the criteria for having the loans forgiven. Those requirements include spending at least 60% of the loan amount on worker pay with the other 40% going to overhead costs such as rent and utilities.

Another reason for the surge in the June deficit was the government's decision to delay tax payments this year until July 15. That decision means that quarterly payments made by individual taxpayers and corporations will not be due until July 15 this year rather than June.

The CBO estimate of a \$3.7 trillion deficit for this year could go higher depending on the course of the economy.



AP

U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson on Monday demanded more information about President Donald Trump's decision to commute the prison sentence of longtime ally Roger Stone, above.

Judge seeks more details on Trump's clemency for Stone

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Monday demanded more information about President Donald Trump's decision to commute the prison sentence of longtime ally Roger Stone.

U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson ordered that the parties provide her by Tuesday with a copy of the executive order that commuted Stone's sentence. She also asked for clarity about the scope of the clemency. Hours after the judge's directive, the Justice Department submitted to the court an order making clear that the clemency extended to both Stone's prison sentence and his supervised release.

Trump commuted Stone's 40-month prison sentence on Friday evening, just days before he was to report to prison. Stone was convicted as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation of making false statements, tampering with a witness

and obstructing lawmakers who were examining Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Trump on Monday restated his position that the investigation "should have never taken place."

Democrats lambasted Trump's action on behalf of Stone as having undermined the rule of law, and Sen. Mitt Romney, of Utah, the only Republican to vote to convict the president during his impeachment trial, called the clemency "unprecedented, historic corruption." Mueller himself defended the Stone prosecution in a Washington Post opinion piece in which he said Stone "remains a convicted felon, and rightly so."

In an interview Monday evening on Fox News, Stone, 67, said that while he knew Trump might "take some shots" for the commutation, "I think most people, most fair-minded people, understand he saved my life and, at least on paper, he gave me a chance to fight for vindication."

Judge voids Ga. 'heartbeat' abortion law

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A federal judge on Monday permanently blocked Georgia's 2019 "heartbeat" abortion law, finding that it violates the U.S. Constitution.

U.S. District Judge Steve Jones ruled against the state in a lawsuit filed by abortion providers and an advocacy group. Jones had temporarily blocked the law in October, and it never went into effect. The new ruling permanently enjoins the state from ever enforcing House Bill 481.

Georgia's measure sought to ban abortions once a "detectable human heartbeat" was present, with some limited exceptions. Cardiac activity can be detected

by ultrasound as early as six weeks into a pregnancy, before many women realize they're pregnant, according to a legal challenge. The bill narrowly passed the Georgia General Assembly amid intense lobbying for and against.

Those who challenged the law said the ruling proves their contention that the measure was unconstitutional. Lead plaintiff SisterSong, an Atlanta-based group that fights abortion restrictions on behalf of African American and other women of color, called it a "huge win for bodily autonomy."

"No one should have to live in a world where their bodies and

reproductive decision making is controlled by the state," SisterSong Executive Director Monica Simpson said in a statement.

Republican Gov. Brian Kemp, who has supported the restriction, immediately vowed an appeal.

"We will appeal the court's decision," Kemp said in a statement. "Georgia values life and we will keep fighting for the rights of the unborn."

The prospects of an appeal are uncertain, though, considering the U.S. Supreme Court last month struck down other abortion restrictions from Louisiana.

Women in Georgia can currently seek an abortion during the first 20 weeks of a pregnancy.



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WORLD

Widow of ex-Korean Air boss convicted of assaulting workers

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The widow of the former Korean Air chairman received a suspended prison sentence Tuesday for assault and other abuses of her chauffeur, security guard and other employees in a case that extended a bizarre legal saga surrounding the company's founding family.

The Seoul Central District Court found Lee Myung-hee, 70, guilty of habitual

abuse toward helpless "victims who were under her influence" and sentenced her to a two-year prison sentence suspended by three years.

While prosecutors had sought a jail term of two-and-a-half years, the court said it considered Lee's age and that she was acknowledging responsibility. It wasn't immediately clear whether prosecutors or Lee would appeal the ruling.

Lee was accused of physically and ver-

bally abusing her employees between 2011 and 2018, including reportedly kicking her chauffeur for failing to load luggage into a car and throwing pruning shears toward a security guard at her home.

She is the widow of former Korean Air Chairman Cho Yang-ho, who died last year. Their son, Walter Cho, has been leading Korean Air since then.

Their daughter Cho Hyun-ah was a company executive who gained notoriety

in 2014 after she ordered a Korean Air passenger plane to return to a terminal at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York because she was angry that the crew served her macadamia nuts in a bag instead of on a plate.

Dubbed "nut rage," the incident severely tarnished the Cho family's image. She was released from jail in South Korea in May 2015 after the top court suspended her sentence in the case.

Iran executes ex-defense ministry staffer for spying

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran has executed a former employee of the defense ministry who was convicted of spying on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency, the country's judiciary said Tuesday. It was the second such execution in the past month.

The report said Reza Asgari was executed last week. Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili said Asgari had worked in the airspace department of the ministry and retired in 2006.

"In the last years of his service,

he joined the CIA, he sold information about our missiles ... to the CIA and took money from them," Esmaili said. "He was identified, tried and sentenced to death."

Occasionally Iran announces arrests and convictions of alleged spies for foreign countries, including the U.S. and Israel.

In June, Iran said another alleged spy, Jalal Hajizavar, was hanged in a prison near Tehran. The report said Hajizavar — also a former staffer of the defense ministry — had admitted in court that he was paid to spy for the CIA.

UAE's Mars orbiter launch from Japan postponed because of bad weather

Associated Press

TOKYO — The liftoff of the United Arab Emirates' Mars orbiter was postponed until Friday due to bad weather at the Japanese launch site.

The orbiter named Amal, or Hope, is the Arab world's first interplanetary mission. The launch was scheduled for Wednesday from the Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan, but the UAE mission team announced the rescheduled date on Twitter.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' H-IIA rocket will carry UAE's craft into space. Mitsubishi launch official Keiji Suzuki had said on Monday a postponement was possible as intermittent

lightning and rain were forecast over the next few days.

Heavy rain has fallen for more than a week in large areas of Japan, triggering mudslides and floods and killing more than 70 people, most of them on the southern main island of Kyushu.

Hope is set to reach Mars in February 2021, the year the UAE celebrates 50 years since its formation.

A successful Hope mission would be a major step for the oil-dependent economy seeking a future in space.

Hope carries three instruments to study the upper atmosphere and monitor climate change and is scheduled to circle the red planet for at least two years.




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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Officials: Deputy falsely reported his assault

VA WARRENTON — Authorities said a sheriff's deputy in Virginia who claimed he was the victim of a roadside assault was not telling the truth. Fauquier County Sheriff's Deputy Jake Dooley was charged with falsely summoning law enforcement after detectives from the sheriff's office investigated his claims, the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post.

Dooley, 22, made the allegations after a passerby found him lying unconscious on a roadside in Marshall, a town in the county, according to the sheriff's office.

Investigators previously said the deputy was struck in the head with an object by an individual in another car. Officials said it had happened as he was walking back to his patrol car after stopping to remove a hazard from a road.

For sale: A tiny house made by students

MI HANCOCK — A tiny house built by teenagers in the Upper Peninsula is up for sale.

Bids start at \$29,000 for the house, which was built by students in a technical program offered by the Copper Country Intermediate School District in Hancock. The house stands on an 8-foot-by-20-foot trailer.

So-called tiny houses have been embraced by people seeking a minimalist lifestyle. This one has water and sewer hookup, an electric stove, 50-amp electric service, a carpeted loft and a queen bed.

Gavin Simson, who will be a senior at Hancock Central High School, said he worked on it for two hours a day between September and March. With just a few exceptions, the work was done only on weekends.

Biologists: No cause for alarm over dead fish

ME BANGOR — The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife said there's no cause for alarm by reports of dead fish in four northern lakes.

A large number of fish, mostly yellow perch, have died on Long Lake, Cross Lake, Square Lake and Madawaska Lake, Frank Frost, the department's fisheries resource supervisor for the Fish River Lakes Region, told the Bangor Daily News.

Such fish kills are often caused by temperature stress, said David Russell, a state fish pathologist.

Russell said the fact that fish are dying needn't cause alarm, and he noted in a blog post that thousands of dead white and yellow perch can be observed each year in some part of the state.

Swimming area closed due to sewage spill

HI KAILUA — Officials said a swimming area and part of a road after a rupture released untreated sewage on



GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

Taking it to the street

Additional outdoor seating extends into the street outside of Mike's Beer Bar on the Northside of Pittsburgh. With indoor service not permitted due to COVID-19, the expanded outdoor seating at restaurants throughout Pittsburgh will run through mid-to-late October.

Hawaii island.

The sewer line break discharged about 20,000 gallons of sewage onto a street in Kailua-Kona, West Hawaii Today reported.

Crews quickly diverted the sewage to a different pump station, Hawaii County Department of Environmental Management Wastewater Division Superintendent Ahika DeMello said.

Swimmers were told to leave the area of Niimalu Beach at Kailua Bay, and signs were posted warning of contaminated water.

Police say man had fake gun during standoff

CA SACRAMENTO — A man brandished what police later learned was a fake gun during a standoff that resulted in the evacuation of a hotel, authorities said.

Guests were evacuated from a Comfort Inn in Red Bluff during the standoff between police and a domestic violence suspect, The Sacramento Bee reported.

Christian Sandoval-Perez, 21, of Corning faces multiple charges including child abuse and domestic violence, the Red Bluff Police Department said in a release.

Officers went to the hotel's second floor and encountered Sandoval-Perez with a gun. He held off police for more than 75 minutes, police said. After he put down the gun and allowed himself to be taken into custody, police determined the weapon was fake.

THE CENSUS

7 The number of people who were hit after a woman put her vehicle into the wrong gear and backed into the individuals. Police said the woman was trying to drive forward out of a parking space when she accidentally put the vehicle in reverse, ran over the curb and hit the people. Police said four people were taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Police did not release the name of the driver.

Agriculture agency warns of rabbit disease

VT MONTPELIER — The Vermont Agency of Agriculture is warning rabbit owners about an exotic disease that affects both wild and domestic rabbits that is spreading through the western United States.

The deadly disease is called rabbit hemorrhagic disease and has been found in California, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Texas, and has also been identified in Mexico.

The virus is not related to the coronavirus and it does not infect humans or domestic animals other than rabbits.

State Veterinarian Kristin Haas says the state is greatly concerned for Vermont rabbit owners.

Woman marks 105th birthday with parade

IN WESTFIELD — A suburban Indianapolis woman turned 105 years old with a car parade to mark the occasion.

Ruth George celebrated her birthday Saturday in Westfield, according to WTHR-TV. A line of cars drove by the senior citizens center where she lives and greeted her. Family, friends and a few strangers participated.

She said she has been lonely without a lot of visitors, but the parade cheered her up.

George, a three-time cancer survivor, said her secret is working hard and trusting in God.

Man steals catalytic converter to cover debt

AZ MARICOPA — A man in Maricopa was arrested for allegedly stealing catalytic converters to cover a gambling loss, according to police.

They said that Daniel Danforth, 34, was held on suspicion of burglary in the third degree, possession of burglary tools, possession of dangerous drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia.

A man told Maricopa police that he had parked his car to do business. When he returned, he saw someone underneath his vehicle, but the suspect fled in a

green pickup truck.

The Casa Grande Dispatch reported police found that the exhaust pipe on the victim's car had been cut. Police said the man may have been trying to steal its catalytic converter, which reduces the amount of pollutants and toxic gases that vehicles produce.

Protesters: Animal heart meant to send message

AK JUNEAU — The man who owned a caribou heart that protesters said they wanted to give U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan during a disrupted campaign event said Sullivan reminded him of the robotic Tin Man from "The Wizard of Oz," and he wanted to give him a heart.

Samuel Johns said his intended message was tied to Sullivan's support for opening a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for drilling. The refuge provides grounds for the Porcupine Caribou herd, which is significant to the Indigenous Gwich'in.

"I thought, maybe I should give him a heart as a symbolic message that the caribou heart is what has kept my people alive for thousands of years," Johns said.

Johns said he was not at Saturday's event in Anchorage, in which a protester stepped on stage next to Sullivan and his wife and attempted to pull the heart from a bag.

From wire reports

FACES

New this week: Even more Miranda, 'Psych' movie on Peacock, The Chicks

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

■ **"We Are Freestyle Love Supreme"**: For anyone who didn't get enough of Lin-Manuel Miranda from the live capture of "Hamilton," there is more. Specifically, there is this documentary about the improvising hip-hop group Miranda co-founded before he created "In the Heights" or "Hamilton." It's a kind of origin story for a troupe that went on to incredible fame. Or as Miranda and collaborator Thomas Kail recently put it, it's their "Muppet Babies." In her review, AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr called it "essential" to Miranda disciples. After the film's June debut was postponed in solidarity with Black Lives Matter protests, it lands on Hulu on Friday.

■ **"Airplane!"**: Shirley it hasn't been 40 years since possibly the greatest spoof comedy ever made was released. Yet, it's true. This month marks the anniversary of David Zucker, Jim Abrahams and Jerry Zucker's 1980 pun-stuffed parody. Today, it remains hysterical and — with a roster of "serious" actors including Leslie Nielsen, Robert Stack, Robert Hays and Julie Hagerty — a monument to how often, for the biggest laughs, you need to play it straight. Streaming on Netflix.

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

Music

■ **The Chicks**: After recording their first album in 14 years and changing their name, Grammy-winning country trio The Chicks will release their new album, "Gaslighter," on Friday. The album was produced by hitmaker Jack Antonoff, who has helped Taylor Swift, Lana Del Rey, St. Vincent, Sara Bareilles and Lorde craft music. In an interview with the AP, Natalie Maines said now is the right time for the group to release music: "It just seemed like a good reflection on our times."

■ On Tuesday K-pop powerhouses **BTS** released their first Japanese album in two years. "Map of the Soul: 7 — The Journey" is the group's fourth Japanese album and is the follow-up to their latest Korean album, "Map of the Soul: 7." The new 13-track set includes two new Japanese original songs as well as newly recorded Japanese versions of "Boy With Luv," "Black Swan," "Make It Right" and "Dionysus."

■ **Ellie Goulding** recently surpassed Adele's record for most entries by any British female artist on the Billboard Hot 100 chart with the tune "Hate Me," her 14th track on the chart. "Hate Me" appeared on the new album, "Brightest Blue," out Friday. The album is broken up into two parts: Side A features emotional tunes that range slow to mid-tempo



PEACOCK/AP

James Roday, left, and Dule Hill appear in the new film "Psych 2: Lassie Come Home," premiering Wednesday with the debut of the Peacock streaming service.

to upbeat, while Side B includes radio-ready pop hits and collaborations with Diplo, Swae Lee, Juice WRLD, Lauv and blackbear.

— AP Music Editor Mesfin Fekadu

Television

■ The documentary **"Showbiz Kids"** promises a candid look at the "high risk, high reward" careers of child actors, with perspective from those who have been there. Those sharing their experiences include Evan Rachel Wood, Jada Pinkett Smith, Henry Thomas, Mara Wilson, Milla Jovovich and Wil Wheaton. Alex Winter, the "Bill & Ted" franchise star who appeared on Broadway as a youngster, wrote and directed the film now on HBO and streaming on HBO Max. The documentary also follows two young hopefuls — a teenager looking for her next big stage show and a young unknown who moves to Los Angeles for TV roles — as they balance childhood with work.

■ **"Psych"** fans can rejoice, at least for a couple of hours. Shawn (James Roday) and Gus (Dule Hill) return in the movie "Psych 2: Lassie Come Home," debuting Wednesday with the launch of streaming service Peacock. Leaving behind

their San Francisco lives, the pair are pulled back to Southern California and Santa Barbara after police chief Carlton "Lassie" Lassiter (Timothy Omundson) is ambushed and ends up in a recovery clinic. The unusual events he witnesses gives Shawn and Gus the thorny job of sorting out a twisted case while navigating their personal lives and, possibly, the supernatural. Maybe a mischievous spirit is responsible for the title.

■ The stars of NBC's **"30 Rock"** are back in their old roles and with a new mission: to help pitch next season's shows and stars for the network and its sibling cable channels. Tina Fey and Alec Baldwin are among the cast members taking part in "30 Rock: A One-Time Special." The program is yet another outcome of the coronavirus, which kept NBCUniversal and other media companies from the spring tradition of presenting their 2020-21 schedules to ad buyers in New York City. As one alternative, the media company devised the hourlong Thursday special that pitches to viewers and potential commercial sponsors. Itself commercial-free, it will also be shown on AFN-Prime and channels including USA, Bravo and Oxygen as well as streaming on Peacock.

— AP Television Writer Lynn Elber



AP

The body of Naya Rivera, shown in 2018, was recovered from a Southern California lake after a five-day search. She was 33.

Authorities find body of 'Glee' actress

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

Naya Rivera, a singer and actor who played a gay cheerleader on the hit TV musical comedy "Glee," was found dead Monday in a Southern California lake. She was 33.

Rivera's body was discovered five days after she disappeared on Lake Piru, where her son, Josey, was found July 8 alone on a boat the two had rented, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office said. The Sheriff's Office confirmed that the body was Rivera's.

Josey told investigators that his mother boosted him back to the deck of the boat before he looked back and saw her disappearing under the water, authorities said.

"She must have mustered enough energy to get her son back on the boat, but not enough to save herself," Ventura County Sheriff Bill Ayub said.

"Rest sweet, Naya. What a force you were," wrote "Glee" co-star Jane Lynch on Twitter.

Rivera began acting at a young age, but she rose to national attention on "Glee," which aired from 2009 until 2015 on Fox. She is survived by her parents, Yolanda and George; a younger brother, Mychal; a sister, Nickayla; and her 4-year-old son.

Rivera's death is the latest in a tragic arc of "Glee" actors. Cory Monteith died in 2013 — seven years to the day before Rivera's body was publicly identified — from a toxic mix of alcohol and heroin, and Rivera's ex-boyfriend Mark Salling, who played a jock on the series, killed himself in 2018 after pleading guilty to child pornography charges. Rivera and Salling dated for three years and broke up in 2010.

A native of Santa Clarita, Calif., Rivera began acting at 4, appearing in such series as "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," "Family Matters" and "The Bernie Mac Show."

She worked odd jobs as a telemarketer, a nanny, a waitress and an Abercrombie & Fitch greeter before landing the role of Santana Lopez on Ryan Murphy's "Glee."

Rivera played a secondary character — the mean cheerleader with blistering put-downs — in the show's first season, but became a regular in the second season as she struggled to reveal her character's sexual identity. Many on social media credited her character for making them feel better about their own sexuality.

Some of her more memorable songs on the show include a cover of Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide" with guest star Gwen Stefani, "Here Comes the Sun" with Demi Lovato, and a tearful cover of The Band Perry's "If I Die Young."

Other news

■ Two men and two teens have been charged in the death of rising rapper **Pop Smoke**, who was killed during a Los Angeles home-invasion robbery in February, the district attorney's office said Monday. Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey said in a statement that the newly named Walker, 19, and Keandre Rodgers, 18, were charged with murder that occurred during the commission of a robbery and burglary. The two boys, 15 and 17 years old, were also

charged with murder and robbery while in juvenile court. Their names were not released due to their age. The 20-year-old New York rapper, whose legal name is Basharr Barakah Jackson, was killed Feb. 19 at a home in the Hollywood Hills.

■ "Empire" actor **Bryshere Gray** was arrested in Arizona on accusations of abusing his wife, police said. The Goodyear Police Department said the 26-year-old was booked into jail Saturday, KPNX-TV reported.

From The Associated Press



Pop Smoke

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OPINION

Never Trumpers are Dems in GOP clothing

By HENRY OLSEN
Special to The Washington Post

The Lincoln Project has quickly established itself as the political arm of the "Never Trump" Republicans. It has also shown in word and deed what many loyal Republicans have always suspected: They're Democrats in Republican clothing.

The year's Senate races offer a fresh indication of their real motives. The project's newest television ad names 45 Republican senators who voters should oppose, including 13 up for reelection. Their sin? Backing Trump on matters such as impeachment. The fact that nearly all Republican voters both approve of Trump's job performance and opposed impeachment doesn't seem to matter to those who claim to represent true Republican values.

Nor does what these senators vote for in the Senate seem to matter, either. These men and women have voted to confirm hundreds of conservative judges, once known as a core Republican value. They voted for a standard federal income supply-side tax cut, another core GOP belief. Apparently voting for Republican ideas and backing a Republican president no longer qualifies one as a good Republican in the Lincoln Project's eyes.

John Weaver, a veteran campaign strategist for moderate Republicans, made the project's true aims even clearer this week-end. In a July 11 Washington Post article, Weaver was quoted as saying, "Our task won't be finished when Joe Biden takes the oath of office." He said the project would seek to derail Sens. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., Tom Cotton, R-Ark., and others of their

"lik" from getting the next GOP presidential nomination. The only thing these men are guilty of is questioning the pre-Trump Republican economic orthodoxy on matters such as trade, regulation of the internet and immigration. Apparently that's also beyond the pale of a group that bears the name of a president who believed in a protective tariff all of his career.

The Lincoln Project is thus a U.S. version of a phenomenon seen worldwide: centrist conservatives who no longer feel at home in a party whose voters want a more nationalistic and populist agenda. This was seen in Britain in the Brexit debate, where many important party figures broke ranks to oppose Brexit and urged Conservative voters to oppose the Conservative Party in last year's election. A milder version appeared in Australia in 2018, when urban centrist Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull was ousted by his party caucus for not being sufficiently mindful of conservative values on the economy and climate change. Many centrist, educated voters abandoned Turnbull's Liberal Party in the 2019 election favoring the center-left Labor Party or centrist independent candidates.

But what Weaver and his buddies don't seem to understand is that they, like their Anglophone counterparts, are a small minority within the center-right electorate. The Tories who rebelled from their party lost badly in 2019 to Brexit-backing Boris Johnson, who attracted voters in blue-collar, historically Labour seats. Turnbull's successor, Prime Minister Scott Morrison, won despite trailing in nearly every pre-election poll by offsetting the flight of some educated conservatives with blue-collar, former Labor voters in small-town

and rural Australia.

Weaver himself has tried to move the party to the center in the past two presidential campaigns, as chief strategist for former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman in 2012 and then-Ohio Gov. John Kasich in 2016. Each did well among educated moderates but crashed and burned among the 70% of Republican voters who are conservatives. Never Trump thus reveals its real names: Never Learn and Never Listen.

Indeed, the Lincoln Project itself is misnamed. It should be called the Doughface Project. "Doughface" was a pejorative term applied to Northern Democrats who supported Southern stances on the question of slavery in the territories before the Civil War, such as Lincoln's strongest opponent, Sen. Stephen Douglas, D-Ill. The Lincoln Project's leaders clearly align with Democratic values on questions such as trade, immigration and the Internet, and are willing to overlook Democratic values on matters such as taxes, climate change and religious liberty. Democratic principles in Republican clothing: That's a modern doughface in a nutshell.

The Lincoln Project has no future if its objective is to remake the post-Trump Republican Party in its image. Republican voters didn't want what they were selling before Trump, and they certainly won't want it afterward. Worldwide, center-right voters are seeking populist-tinted conservatism, and so the initiative's only effective purpose will be to elect Democrats this fall and in the future. There's a name for people who want to do that: Democrats.

Henry Olsen is a Washington Post columnist and a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

Why is Seoul limiting efforts to oppose the Kims?

By PARK SANG HAK
Special to The Washington Post

In the summer of 1999, my family and I escaped from North Korea by swimming across the Yalu River. The country I left is a communist dictatorship that deprives its citizens of food, medical care and basic access to information. It's a place where dissent is punished with a life sentence in a gulag or death. In 2014, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry accused the North Korean government of the worst crimes against humanity on the planet, comparable to Nazi atrocities during World War II. When regime officials learned of our escape, they tortured and murdered my remaining family members.

When I arrived in South Korea, I was granted citizenship, attended university and later became an activist against the North Korean regime. I soon founded an organization, Fighters for a Free North Korea, that launches balloons into the North. Our balloons carry food, leaflets and USB drives filled with films, books and news. They drop into towns and villages and act as windows to the outside world for an otherwise trapped population. Our leaflets carry the truth about the Kim family: They are not gods, they are human, and they must be resisted. The truth is what the Kim dynasty is most afraid of.

I know that our work is effective, because in 2011 North Korea sent an assassin with a poison needle to kill me. He was intercepted by South Korean intelligence and confessed to the plot. In 2012, there was a second failed attempt. Packages containing animal corpses have been mailed to my office.

Four weeks ago, Kim Yo Jong, sister of dictators Kim Jong Un, denounced human rights activists who send balloons across the border: "Human scum," she called us.

The fury and rage of the regime, seeing its monopoly of information threatened so overtly, are palpable. South Korea, however, is a democracy, and distributing leaflets is a basic act of free speech. It is nonviolent and educational and allows citizens to engage in direct communication with those suffering under North Korean oppression.

But shockingly, South Korean President Moon Jae-in seems to agree with the dictator's sister. Just hours after her threats, the South Korean government announced that it would outlaw the balloon launches. Now, it has gone a step further and is pressing charges against my organization as well as a group led by my brother on the basis of a law that prohibits "unauthorized" dealings with the North.

When a TV station revealed my home address to the world, exposing me to other North Korean assassins and their supporters in the South. My personal bank accounts are under investigation, and the government has forbidden me from leaving the country. On June 30, the government moved to pull the civic licenses of our nongovernmental organization, preventing us from holding charity fundraisers.

In the hope of appeasing the North, Moon is impeding the work of activists fighting the North's human rights violations. His administration has cut overall funding dedicated to defending human rights in North Korea by 92%.

In 2018, the Moon administration sent National Intelligence Service agents to interfere with a speech by former North Korean diplomat Thae Yong-ho, the highest-ranking defector living today and the target of numerous assassination attempts. The Moon administration has also pressured think tanks and other institutions that have aired critical views of the North. Former U.S. diplomat David Straub was reportedly fired from the Sejong Institute for

criticizing government policies. In another case, a government-linked think tank cut off funding to the U.S.-Korea Institute after it refused to fire its outspoken director.

Most shockingly, the Moon administration has done its best to thwart the North Korea Human Rights Act. Passed by the country's legislature in March 2016 after more than a decade of debate, the act mandated the creation of a human rights foundation dedicated to helping North Koreans, an archive to record and inform about the historical human rights abuses, a scholarship and a high-level committee focused on human rights in North Korea. Yet Moon's government has actively hampered the work of these institutions. He allowed leases to expire on key buildings, reduced budget allocations and refused to abide by the provisions of the legislation.

Moon is disrupting the efforts of activists and defectors to improve the lives of North Koreans and provide an alternative narrative to the Kim regime's lies and brainwashing. Silenced defectors cannot inform the world about the atrocities taking place inside the North. Muzzled academics cannot study and compare different policies. Intimidated journalists cannot keep the public informed and aware of the government's actions.

Human rights groups should not be persecuted for nurturing free thought in North Korea. If the goal is to one day have free speech in the North, we cannot accept censorship in the South.

If Moon continues to subdue activists, academics and anyone opposed to his policies, he will not only fail to help end dictatorship in North Korea. He will also erode liberal democracy in the South.

Park Sang Hak is chairman of Fighters for a Free North Korea. He was awarded the Vachell Award Prize for Creative Dissent in 2013.

OPINION

Reopening can't mean all students, every day

By BRIAN P. GILL
AND JENNIFER S. LERNER
Special to The Washington Post

The prospect of reopening schools this fall is both urgent and terrifying. Fortunately, there are ways to reopen schools while reducing the odds of major COVID-19 outbreaks — if we are willing to be creative about how to reopen them and abandon some long-held assumptions about how schools operate.

The challenge lies in making decisions under extreme uncertainty — uncertainty about the transmission of the virus in children, about how far apart students' desks (and school bus seats) need to be, and about whether kids can successfully wear face masks for six hours a day. Schools in some countries have reopened without experiencing infection spikes, but it is hard to explain away the Israeli school that saw more than 100 infections within a few weeks after reopening.

In a pandemic, the challenge of decision-making is made even harder by the mathematics of contagion. Infections compound, making the risk of any large-scale, synchronized activity. This means that bringing all the students back, in all the schools, on the same day, risks throwing fuel onto the fire.

When facing extreme uncertainty coupled with a dire worst-case scenario, it makes a lot of sense to explore options and hedge bets. Doing so not only reduces the chance of catastrophe, but also allows decision-makers to learn as they go and refine strategies accordingly.

What might this mean for reopening schools?

First, don't open all schools at once. Policymakers should encourage schools across a state (or a metropolitan area) to stagger their start dates, reducing the risk of simultaneous outbreaks that could quickly create a statewide crisis. Some schools could open earlier than usual, getting an

early start on compensating for spring's lost learning.

Second, reduce the number of students in schools and classrooms. We believe this can dramatically slow the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus — even if children are not especially good at wearing masks or maintaining physical distance. Mathematica researchers conducted an analysis for Pennsylvania's state education department, running more than 25,000 simulations across six approaches to reopening schools. The analysis found that dividing students into smaller groups, each of which attends school some days and learns from home on others, may allow schools to avoid an outbreak for five to 10 times as long as if they tried to operate normally. Rather than shutting down after a week or a month, many schools might be able to remain open for an entire semester.

In addition, the analysis suggests that shrinking group sizes with part-time attendance could allow schools to open without substantially increasing the risk of large-scale outbreaks. This is not to say that everyone can attend safely: Some students and staff members who are at high risk of COVID-19 complications may need to teach and learn from home, and some communities with high infection rates may need to postpone reopening. And there is no way for a school to eliminate risk entirely. But for many communities, opening with small classes attending part time is nearly as safe as if the school were entirely closed.

The analysis also found that mitigation practices such as wearing masks on the school bus and eating lunch in classrooms could slow the spread of COVID-19 somewhat. If all the students come to school every day (as states such as Florida and Massachusetts have proposed), with classes and school buses running at full capacity, outbreaks remain far more likely than if students were in smaller groups, com-



ing to school part time. Pandemic math is unforgiving.

Of course, having students in school only two days a week creates a logistical headache for families. But it might allow schools to avoid an outbreak for months — while bringing all the students back every day may lead to frequent, unpredictable closures. By reducing outbreaks and closures, a part-time approach might ultimately produce more total hours of in-school instruction.

As parents ourselves, we would much prefer that our child's school be open for a predictable two days a week than a highly unpredictable cycle of opening and closing.

But more important than our own preferences are these facts: Unpredictably difficult experiences create more stress and more downstream health problems than predictably difficult experiences, even if

the experience itself is equivalent in all other respects. And for children, more predictability yields better emotional health, a key predictor of life outcomes.

If we are willing to let go of our long-held societal expectation that all of our kids must be back in school together, on the same Monday-through-Friday schedule starting in late August or early September, we can reopen schools with enhanced predictability and reduced risk. A phased and staggered approach acknowledges the limits of present scientific knowledge, protects against worst-case scenarios and facilitates the development of better solutions.

Brian P. Gill is a senior fellow at Mathematica, a nonpartisan public-policy research and analysis firm. Jennifer S. Lerner is a professor of public policy, management and decision science at the Harvard University Kennedy School, and former chief decision scientist for the U.S. Navy.

Bans on nursing home visitors are unhealthy, unethical

By JASON KARLAWISH,
DAVID C. GRABOWSKI
AND ALLISON K. HOFFMAN
Special to The Washington Post

In March, after an outbreak of COVID-19 in a Seattle nursing home launched the pandemic in the United States, many long-term care facilities generally shut their doors to visiting family and friends. This ban followed guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which regulates most nursing homes: Facilities were ordered to restrict visitors except for "compassionate care" for a resident who was dying.

As an early containment strategy, it made sense. At that time, there was great uncertainty on the disease's transmission, but we have made progress in that area. Although the pandemic continues, and resurges in some areas, long-term-care facilities should reconsider their rules — especially in areas where cases are steady or decreasing. Keeping the doors shut is harmful to the health of residents. Good policy demands more nuanced thinking about how some visitors contribute to their safety.

The fact is that for many nursing home residents, a visit is not simply a social call. Many family members are not company as much as essential caregivers and care monitors. Their involvement is vital, especially at facilities with shortages in staffing. Caring visitors make sure that their

loved ones eat, can communicate with the staff, and receive daily hygiene and dignified engagement. Family members are often the first to see changes in a resident's condition or other issues. Unsurprisingly, quality of care has been found to be poor for residents without regular visitors.

The sudden disruption in residents' contact with loved ones has caused notable declines in residents' cognition and function, depression, as well as anguish for family members.

During normal times, CMS regulations recognize a right to visitors as necessary to promote and facilitate residents' self-determination. Even in these extraordinary times, facilities should balance the loss of self-determination and other medical harms against the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Under CMS's May 18 guidance on reopening, many nursing homes are far from meeting standards for resuming normal visitation. To do so, a facility must have at least 28 days of no new COVID-19 cases, as well as adequate staff, protective gear and COVID-19 testing. Until then, visitors should be allowed only in an "end-of-life situation."

The caution is understandable, but we think the recommendation draws too stark a line. CMS's guidance should take into account visitors who are "essential care partners" and give nursing home leadership more leeway to allow these visitors reentry — under careful procedures, of course.

We do not minimize the threat COVID-19 poses to nursing homes. Even with strong precautions in place, residents and workers at long-term care facilities account thus far for 42% of U.S. COVID-19 deaths and 10% of cases. But we are seeing huge variation across areas of the country in active cases, and local conditions should inform decisions on allowing nursing home visitors.

Nursing homes in areas where COVID-19 cases are slowing or declining are strong candidates for reopening. The harm of keeping essential care partners out can itself be a great threat to well-being, as many families have learned. The risks of visits can be minimized in these controlled situations, as we know more now about the spread of COVID-19. And family and friends will likely be the most vigilant of anyone in protecting their loved ones from exposure.

Nursing homes already have procedures to make sure that workers do not bring COVID-19 into facilities; they can do the same with visits from essential care partners. A facility might stagger visitors, limit where they can be and require COVID-19 testing, temperature checks and masks. Some nursing homes are already allowing limited and distanced outdoor visits.

All this will demand staff time, but it will also save staff time. Visits will reduce worried family members' phone calls and add more hands to help with basic care.

A 26-facility study in the Netherlands offers encouragement for allowing visi-

tors to long-term care facilities, even those with active cases of COVID-19 infection. Criteria included spacing visits to a facility through the day and week, allowing one visitor per resident, and requiring distancing or personal protective equipment. No resurgence of COVID infections ensued, and the Dutch government reopened nursing homes to visitors using these guidelines.

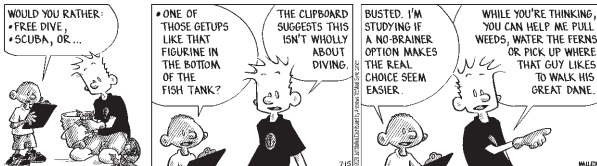
At the very least, essential care partners should not be more restricted than nonessential health care workers, whom CMS guidance allows into nursing homes that have recorded no new infections for 14 days. We are certain that some visitors are at least as important as these nonessential personnel to residents' well-being.

It is understandable that regulators and nursing home operators want to do everything possible to keep COVID-19 out. But blanket visitation bans fail to capture how some friends and family are critical to good care. These benefits are worth the low risk posed by well-monitored visits.

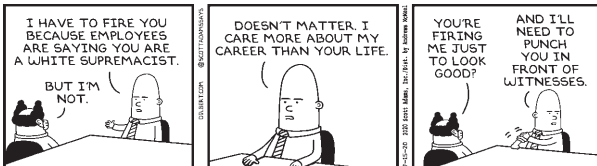
In the long run, keeping these essential care partners out will lead to more harm than good.

Jason Karlawish is a professor of medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine and co-director of the Penn Memory Center at the University of Pennsylvania. David C. Grabowski is a professor of health care policy at Harvard Medical School. Allison K. Hoffman is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.

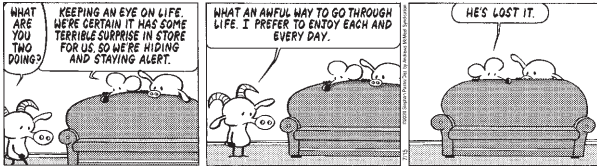
Frazz



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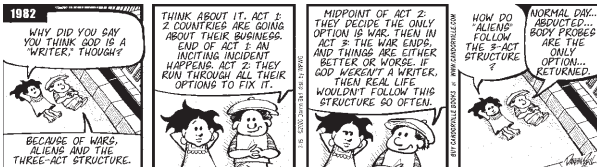
Pearls Before Swine



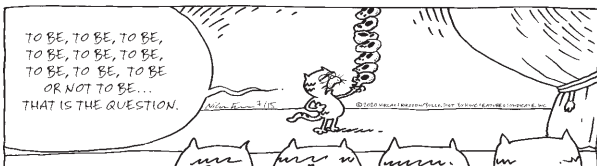
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



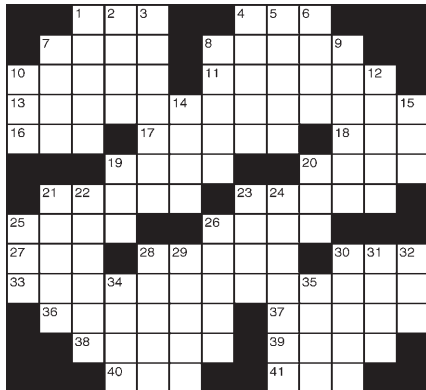
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Swab the decks
- 4 Three, in Rome
- 7 Crib cry
- 8 BBQ fuel
- 10 "Nothing —!"
- 11 Author Lurie
- 13 First-term Capitol worker, at times
- 16 Observe
- 17 A bit crazy
- 18 Vitamin stat
- 19 London gallery
- 20 Song for two
- 21 Hide
- 23 Tools for duels
- 25 North Sea feeder
- 26 Rochester's love
- 27 Old Olds
- 28 Liquefy
- 30 Your
- 33 Experienced counselor
- 36 Electric cars
- 37 Bridge call
- 38 Beam
- 39 Lawman Wyatt
- 40 "Mayday!"
- 41 OED entries

DOWN

- 1 New England state
- 2 High-end hotel chain
- 3 Asian temples
- 4 Apartment sign
- 5 Like April weather
- 6 "Frozen" snow queen
- 7 Grimace
- 8 Social group
- 9 "Amen to that!"
- 10 Dance club VIPs
- 12 Protruberances
- 14 Portnoy's creator
- 15 Snitch
- 19 Menlo Park monogram
- 20 Ruby or Sandra
- 21 Winter forecast
- 22 Chophouse orders
- 23 Ogled
- 24 Advance showing
- 25 Triage ctrs.
- 26 Obliterate
- 28 Salk's conquest
- 29 Russian range
- 30 Despots
- 31 MD's workplace
- 32 Decade parts (Abbr.)
- 34 Doctrines
- 35 Apple tablet

Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-15

CRYPTOQUIP

HS CZTTYT BS QYYT ZFA
M FZ RT Z XXY Z JYA
RGJBNMGBNR RGY DBJOA,
RGZR DBNOA QY MOBQZO
TDZJCHFM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DISCOVERED A MEMO SOMEONE HAD ATTACHED TO THE WINDOW OVER THE DOOR. IT WAS A TRANSMON NOTE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals S



MILITARY MATTERS



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Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Placed RHP Michael Kopech on the restricted list. Placed 3B Yoan Moncada and RHP Jose Ruiz on the 10-day IL.
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Placed CF Dello DeShields on the 10-day IL.
DETROIT TIGERS — Released RHP Zack Godley from a minor league contract.
HOUSTON ASTROS — Placed OF Jordan Alvarez, RHP Ralph Garza, RHP Jose Urquidy, RHP Shawn Dubin, LHP Cionel Perez on the 10-day IL.
National League
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Placed RHP Angel Peralta on the 10-day IL.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Signed RHP Parker Brubaker to a minor league contract.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Announced RHP Jordan Hicks has opted out of the 2020 season, citing pre-existing health concerns.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Placed C Buster Posey on the restricted list.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Placed RHP Wander Suero and LHP Roenis Elias on the 10-day injured list.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Agreed to terms with LB Malik Harrison on a rookie contract.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed LB Jacob Phillips.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed QB Nate Stanley.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
MINNESOTA WILD — Signed F Kirill Kaprizov to a two-year, entry-level contract starting with the 2019-2020 season.
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Signed D Mark Friedman to a two-year contract extension.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION — Re-signed F Teal Bunbury to a multi-year contract.
National Women's Soccer League
ORLANDO PRIDE — Announced D Ali Riley has been loaned to FC Rosengard.

COLLEGE
AUSTIN PEAY — Named Chris Campbell associate head coach/director of sports performance. Kevin Beckwith defensive line coach, Jonathan Frazier special teams coordinator. Robert Smith coach and assistant special teams coordinator and Cammie Cole Nations director of football operations and on-campus recruiting coordinator.

WRESTLING
WRESTLING — Announced the addition of Maj. (Retired) Margaret King coaching staff to the women's basketball coaching staff.

Auto racing

Monster Energy NASCAR Cup schedule

July 15 — x-NASCAR All-Star Open, Bristol, Tenn.
July 15 — NASCAR All-Star Race, Bristol, Tenn.
July 16 — O'Reilly Auto Parts 500, Fort Worth, Texas
Presented by Super Start Batteries 400 presented by O'Reilly Auto Parts, Kansas City, Kan.
July 16 — Foxwoods Resort Casino 301, Loudon, N.H.
July 16 — NASCAR Cup Series Race at Michigan, Brooklyn, Mich.
Aug. 9 — NASCAR Cup Series Race at Michigan, Brooklyn, Mich.
Aug. 16 — NASCAR Cup Series Race at Daytona Road Course, Daytona Beach, Fla.
Aug. 22 — Drydene 311, Dover, Del.
Aug. 23 — Drydene 400, Dover, Del.
Aug. 29 — Coke Zero Sugar 400, Daytona, Fla.
Sept. 6 — Southern 500, Darlington, S.C.
Sept. 12 — Federated Auto Parts 400, Richmond, Va.
Sept. 13 — Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race, Bristol, Tenn.
Oct. 7 — Southern 500, Las Vegas, Nev.
Oct. 24 — YellaWood 500, Talladega, Ala.
Oct. 11 — Bank of America ROVAL 400, Concord, N.C.
Oct. 18 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan.
Oct. 25 — Texas 500, Fort Worth, Texas
Nov. 1 — Xfinity 500, Martinsville, Va.
The NASCAR Cup Series championship, Avondale, Ariz.
x-non-points race

NWSL Challenge Cup
At Herimann, Utah
Saturday, June 27
North Carolina 2, Portland 1
Chicago 1, Washington 0
Sunday, June 30
Washington 3, Utah 3
Portland 1, Sky Blue 0
Wednesday, July 1
Portland 1, Sky Blue 0
Washington 0, North Carolina 2
Saturday, July 4
Utah 1, Sky Blue 0
Houston 2, OL Reign 0
Sunday, July 5
North Carolina 1, Chicago 0
Portland 1, Washington 1
OL Reign 0, Sky Blue 0
Wednesday, July 8
Utah 0, OL Reign 1
Sunday, July 12
Washington 1, Houston 0
Chicago 1, Utah 0
Monday, July 13
OL Reign 0, North Carolina 2
Sky Blue 0, Portland 3
Quarterfinals
Friday, July 17
Teams TBD
Saturday, July 18
Teams TBD
Semifinals
Wednesday, July 22
Quarterfinal winners
Championship
Sunday, July 26
Semifinal winners

MLS is Back tournament
GROUP A (EASTERN CONFERENCE)

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Orlando City	1	0	0	0	0	3
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1	0	3
Miami	0	0	1	1	2	0
New York City FC	0	0	1	0	1	0

Wednesday, July 8
Orlando City 2, Miami 1
Thursday, July 9
Philadelphia 1, New York City FC 0
Tuesday, July 14
New York City FC at Orlando City
Miami at Philadelphia
Monday, July 20
New York City FC at Miami
Orlando City at Philadelphia
GROUP B (WESTERN CONFERENCE)

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
San Jose	0	1	0	0	0	1
Seattle	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	0	0	0	0	0	0

Friday, July 10
San Jose 0, Seattle 0
Tuesday, July 14
Seattle at Chicago
Wednesday, July 15
San Jose at Vancouver
Sunday, July 19
San Jose at Chicago
Vancouver at Seattle
Thursday, July 23
Vancouver at Chicago
GROUP C (EASTERN CONFERENCE)

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
New England	1	0	0	1	0	3
D.C. United	0	1	0	2	2	1
Toronto FC	0	1	0	1	1	1
Montreal	0	0	1	0	1	0

Thursday, July 10
New England 1, Montreal 0
Monday, July 13
D.C. United 2, Toronto FC 2, tie
Thursday, July 16
Toronto FC at Montreal
Friday, July 17
New England at D.C. United
Tuesday, July 21
New England at Toronto FC
D.C. United at Montreal
GROUP D (WESTERN CONFERENCE)

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Real Salt Lake	1	0	0	2	0	3
Minnesota	1	0	0	2	1	3
Sporting KC	0	1	0	1	1	1
Colorado	0	0	1	0	2	0

Sunday, July 12
Minnesota 2, Sporting Kansas City 1
Real Salt Lake 2, Colorado 0
Wednesday, July 22
Sporting Kansas City at Real Salt Lake
Minnesota at Colorado
GROUP E (EASTERN CONFERENCE)

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
New York	1	0	0	4	0	3
Columbus	1	0	0	1	0	3
Atlanta	0	0	1	0	1	0
Cincinnati	0	0	1	0	4	0

Saturday, July 11
New York 1, Atlanta 0
Columbus 4, Cincinnati 0
Thursday, July 16
Atlanta at Columbus
Sunday, July 21
Columbus at Atlanta
Wednesday, July 22
New York at Cincinnati
GROUP F (WESTERN CONFERENCE)

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Portland	0	0	2	1	3	1
Houston	0	1	0	3	3	1
Los Angeles FC	0	1	0	3	3	1
LA Galaxy	0	0	1	1	2	0

Monday, July 13
Portland 3, Los Angeles FC 3, tie
Houston 2, LA Galaxy 1
Saturday, July 18
Houston at Portland
LA Galaxy at Los Angeles FC
Thursday, July 23
Houston at LA Galaxy
Portland at Los Angeles FC



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Bubba Wallace hasn't qualified for Wednesday's 20-driver All-Star race in Bristol, Tenn.

Commentary

Wallace deserves a spot in NASCAR's All-Star race

BCHARLOTTE, N.C. — Bubba Wallace deserves a spot in NASCAR's All-Star race, a \$1 million exhibition designed for race winners and previous champions of the event.

Wallace doesn't qualify under those conditions, though he has four chances to make the 20-driver field Wednesday night at Bristol Motor Speedway in Tennessee. There are 22 drivers entered in the "open" event in which the winners of each of the three stages earn an automatic berth into the show.

The fourth slot goes to the winner of a fan vote and Wallace was leading that poll when results were last updated a week ago. Voting closed Tuesday.

Plenty will argue that an all-star race is for the very best in the sport and Wallace needs to earn his way in on the racetrack. He and his Richard Petty Motorsports team will certainly try that route but the competition is steep: Aric Almirola, Clint Bowyer, Chris Buescher, Austin Dillon and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. — all previous race winners driving for larger teams in the RPM — are among those Wallace must beat for an automatic berth.

That doesn't mean Wallace doesn't have a chance to race his way into the main event, which he did last year. Overlooked in a season in which he has dominated off-track news, Wallace and the No. 43 team have been much improved.

Through 17 races, Wallace has already equaled his career best with three top-10 finishes. He is 19th in the Cup Series standings, only 60 points outside the bubble to qualify for the playoffs.

Those stats are not that impressive. But it is important to

In the Pits



by JENNA FRYER • AP

recognize RPM is a single-car team lacking the heavy sponsorship money required to compete with NASCAR's elite organizations.

An alliance with Richard Childress Racing helps, but the finances are not there for Wallace to contend for wins each week.

Money equals speed in racing, whether it's new parts, more people or the ability to spend time on research and development. RPM gets by with what it can afford and recognizes its shortcomings. Wallace had a decent run at Charlotte Motor Speedway in May but contact caused him to break a wheel hub.

When the team told him what the issue was over the radio, a despondent Wallace replied he wasn't going to stay on the track when the team can't even afford new wheel hubs. "Bring it to the garage," he was told.

So apply perspective to Wallace's results. His ninth-place finish two weekends ago at Indianapolis Motor Speedway was better than former champions Joey Logano, Kurt Busch and former Brickyard winner Ryan Newman.

And for an RPM team that hasn't won a race since 2014 when Aric Almirola won a rain-shortened race at Daytona. So a top-10 finish at Indy is pretty close to a moral and emotional victory.

Statistics aside, the strain Wallace and his team have been under the last two months is enormous. Wallace is the only Black driver at NASCAR's top level and for that reason alone he has been forced to speak out as the country is pushing for racial equality.

He has been at the forefront of NASCAR's racial reckoning and became the face of the movement when he successfully called on series leadership to ban the Confederate flag at NASCAR events. What followed has been a blinding spotlight.

The 26-year-old Wallace has tried to navigate his new role as a spokesman, a leader — a position he never before had as a mid-pack racer — and soon enough he was receiving death threats, scorn and mockery from the public. When NASCAR said a noose had been in Wallace's garage stall at Alabama's Talladega Superspeedway, the intensity only escalated when federal authorities determined the noose had been hanging in the garage stall since last October and thus Wallace could not have been the target of a hate crime.

Although Wallace never saw the noose, never reported it and learned of it from NASCAR, conspiracy theorists have been in full attack mode. President Donald Trump tweeted that Wallace owed his fellow competitors an apology, wrongly stating it had been a hoax, and the White House likened the situation to the case of actor Jussie Smollett.

The pressure has been enormous on Wallace, who somehow has weathered it all with grace while presenting himself as a strong representative of NASCAR. His performance has not suffered and his team has not given up on its driver or its quest to improve.

That alone makes Wallace a worthy candidate for the All-Star race, whether he earns his way in on the track or the fans — existing ones or the new ones drawn to the sport specifically by Wallace — make him the popular choice.

SPORTS BRIEFS/NBA

Briefly

MVP Delle Donne says WNBA denied waiver

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Elena Delle Donne's request to be medically excused from the WNBA season was denied, according to the league's reigning MVP.

The Washington Mystics star said in a statement Monday that the independent panel of doctors the league and union agreed upon to decide whether players should be medically excused deemed her not to be "high risk, and should be permitted to play in the bubble."

Had Delle Donne been medically excused, she would have earned her entire salary for the season. Now, if she chooses not to play, the defending WNBA champion Mystics wouldn't have to pay her.

Delle Donne has battled Lyme disease since 2008. The disease is not included on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's list of underlying conditions that could put someone at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

"I love my team, and we had an unbelievable season last year, and I want to play! But the question is whether or not the WNBA bubble is safe for me," Delle Donne said in the statement. "My personal physician who has treated me for Lyme disease for years advised me that I'm at high risk for contracting and having complications from COVID-19."

Delle Donne's statement was first obtained by ESPN.

"I'm thinking things over, talking to my doctor and my wife, and look forward to sharing what I ultimately plan to do very soon," the 30-year-old said. "My heart has gone out to everyone who has had to choose between their health and having an income, and of course to anyone who has lost their job, their home, and anyone they love in this pandemic."

The league declined to comment, citing privacy concerns about player health matters.

Delle Donne's new teammate Tina Charles also was waiting for a decision from the medical panel. If both players miss the season, the Mystics would be down to 10 players on the roster.

NFL, Oakley come up with face shields

NEW YORK — With NFL training camps set to start at the end of the month, the league believes it is closer to one answer when it comes to player safety amid the coronavirus pandemic: face shields for the players' helmets.

The union's medical director, Dr. Thom Mayer suggested the players wear face masks to help control the spread of the virus. The league's engineers and a sports equipment company tested prototypes for the masks, but players shot it down.

The face shield was designed by Oakley, which already provides visors for the players.

"We have well over 700 players that used the visors last year," said Renie Anderson, chief revenue officer and executive vice president of NFL Partnerships.

The face shield has received a better response than the mask suggestion.

In other NFL news:

■ Los Angeles Chargers safety Roderic Teamer has been suspended for the first four regular-season games due to a violation of the NFL's substance abuse policy, the league said Monday. Teamer played in seven games as a rookie last season with six starts.

Former USC QB Daniels eligible in fall at Georgia

ATHENS, Ga. — Former Southern California starler JT Daniels says he has been granted immediate eligibility at Georgia, where he can join the competition at quarterback.

Daniels posted on his Twitter account on Monday his appreciation to the NCAA "for granting me immediate eligibility and allowing me to play football this fall."

Daniels announced his transfer to Georgia on May 29 and he can play for three seasons. He started for the Trojans in 2018, but lost his job to Kedon Slovis last season after suffering a knee injury in the season opener.

NBA bubble faces first test

Westbrook delayed by positive test; two unwittingly breach safe zone

By TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Houston's Russell Westbrook hasn't made it to the NBA restart yet.

The coronavirus did — but health protocols seemed to work for the league and its players held their work.

On a day of troubling news for the league — Westbrook revealing that he has tested positive for the virus and two other players facing 10-day quarantines for leaving the league campus perimeter at Walt Disney World — it was also announced that two players tested positive for the virus after arriving in Central Florida last week.

But neither of those positive players ever made it out of quarantine, so neither entered the so-called bubble and could mingle freely with other players, coaches and staff. The NBA said both players, neither of whom were identified, "have since left the Campus to isolate at home or in isolation housing." They could rejoin their teams later.

"Our protocols are unbelievable," said Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry, one of the players who helped craft the restart rules. "I think our protocols and our health and safety measures have been top-notch. I think this thing will work perfectly. ... We're doing everything that we can possibly do to make sure that we're healthy, we're safe and we're in an environment where we can be successful and do our jobs at a high level."

It's unclear when Westbrook will arrive. As recently as Sunday, the Rockets believed that Westbrook, NBA scoring leader James Harden and newly re-acquired Luc Mbah a Moute — none of the three traveled with the team to Walt Disney World near Orlando last week — would be with the team in the next few days.

In Westbrook's case, that now seems most unlikely.

"I tested positive for covid-19 prior to my teams departure to Orlando," Westbrook wrote on his social media channels. "I'm currently feeling well, quarantined, and looking forward to rejoining my teammates when I am cleared."

The arrival dates for Harden and Mbah a Moute are murky as well. Neither player has revealed why they aren't at Disney, and Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni would only say that "these are things that people are dealing with."

D'Antoni said Westbrook had taken part in individual workouts when they were permitted back in Houston, but declined to elaborate further on the guard's condition. He also isn't sure when the missing Rockets will arrive.

"I did have one year of pre-med," D'Antoni said.

"But I don't know when it's going to happen. As soon as protocols get out of the way ... they're all anxious to get here and they're doing what they need to do to stay in shape."

"This is not going to set us back. We're not going to let it set us back, and we're going to be ready to roll here in the next two, three weeks."

Houston has clinched a playoff spot and resumes its season with the first of eight seeding games on July 31 against Dallas.

"I'm praying for his safety and the same for his family," Phoenix guard Devin Booker said. "Hopefully he can get healthy and get down here as soon as possible."

The league also said Monday that 19 players newly tested positive since July 1 during in-market testing, meaning tests done before teams began arriving at Disney on July 7. Upon arrival at Disney, 322 players were tested with the two positives.

"All we can do is try to stay optimistic about it and positive, and hopefully we can finish this season," said Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard, the reigning NBA Finals MVP.

Inside the NBA bubble, however, there was optimism that the rules established by the league and the players will work — even though some Disney parks reopened to visitors over the weekend and the MLS restart, also at the campus, has seen two teams leave after a spate of positive tests.

"It's a condition, a virus, that does not discriminate," Phoenix coach Monty Williams said. "And we're trying to do everything we can to keep our guys safe."

Those protocols that Lowry spoke of were designed to be taken seriously, and at least two players inside the NBA bubble have already paid a steep price for violating quarantine upon their teams' respective arrivals last week.

Sacramento's Richaun Holmes revealed Monday that he "briefly and accidentally" crossed the NBA campus line to pick up a food delivery. Under the NBA's rules of the restart, he now has to spend 10 days in quarantine.

Holmes said he had eight days left in quarantine.

"I apologize for my actions and look forward to rejoining my teammates for our playoff push," Holmes wrote.

Also Monday, a person with knowledge of the situation said that Houston's Bruno Caboclo was also serving a 10-day quarantine for crossing the campus line. Like Holmes, Caboclo also had eight days remaining Monday, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the Rockets have not announced the sanction.

Monday's developments came on a day where more than 12,000 new cases were confirmed in Florida, now perhaps the hottest of virus hotspots in the U.S. And officials in Houston also called for that city to lock back down as area hospitals strain to accommodate patients sick with COVID-19.

Westbrook also offered a word of caution.

"Please take this virus seriously," Westbrook wrote. "Be safe. Mask up!"



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COLLEGE/SOCIAL JUSTICE

Patriot League cancels fall sports

SEC still evaluating as virus spikes in South

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

The Patriot League joined the Ivy League on Monday, punting on football and other fall sports because of the coronavirus pandemic while holding out hope the games can be made up.

The Patriot League said its 10 Division I schools will also not compete in men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball and field hockey. The conference's council of presidents said the league will consider playing those seasons in the winter and spring. "Really, really tough decision," Patriot League Commissioner Jennifer Heppel said. "Nobody's happy. Happy is a word that's kind of gone out the window."

The conference is mostly comprised of private schools located in the Northeast that offer limited athletic scholarships. Pennsylvania rivals Lehigh and Lafayette have played 155 times, more than any opponents in college football history.

Army and Navy are league members, but not in football. Heppel said news about the United States' inability to control the pandemic coming out of the July 4 weekend heightened concern within the Patriot League about its ability to safely conduct a sports season.

'Nobody's happy. Happy is a word that's kind of gone out the window.'

Jennifer Heppel
Patriot League
commissioner

Heppel said the league competes in Division II's second tier of college football (FCS) like the Ivy League, which announced a similar decision last week. Unlike the Ivy League, the Patriot League participates in the FCS playoffs.

"Of course, you can't," Heppel said. "When a decision that's made like the Ivy made that hadn't been made before, you want to understand because information is valuable."

Meanwhile, Southeastern Conference athletic director Ovetta, to discuss how the SEC can have a football season as COVID-19 cases spike throughout much of the South.

"It is clear that current circumstances related to COVID-19 will improve and we will continue to closely monitor develop-

ments around the virus on a daily basis," SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said in a statement after the meeting.

The meeting had been scheduled for a while but came just days after the Big Ten and Pac-12 said they would play conference-only schedules this fall in football and a number of other sports.

"We believe that late July will provide the best clarity for making the important decisions ahead of us," Sankey said.

SEC football season days, the unofficial start of the season for many fans, had been scheduled to begin this week, but the pandemic forced all FBS conferences to hold those events online this year. Even some of those — for the SEC and ACC — are now on hold.

SEC football season days, the unofficial start of the season for many fans, had been scheduled to begin this week, but the pandemic forced all FBS conferences to hold those events online this year. Even some of those — for the SEC and ACC — are now on hold.

Florida State posted a video on social media of its team hitting the field with players and coaches wearing face coverings and shields to help stop the spread of the virus.

Pac-12 football teams will have to wait. Last week, conference presidents delayed mandatory team activities, acknowledging the league would likely delay the start of the fall sports seasons.

Iowa State athletic director Jamie Pollard, in a letter to fans posted online, said the school is trying to balance the health and safety of athletes with the drastic financial repercussions of not having a football season.

"If we are unable to play sports this fall, the athletics department would incur approximately \$40M in unfunded expenses in the next six months," Pollard wrote.

The college football season was scheduled to start with a handful of nonconference games — three involving Pac-12 teams — on Aug. 6 before a slate around Labor Day week ended.

The Patriot League doesn't have a multimillion-dollar revenue stream attached to its football season.

"The specific financial aspect of it didn't come into the conversation," Heppel said. "It wasn't a factor in our decision-making. And if that means it was easier, I don't know. Because it was still pretty damn hard."

Army and Navy play football in the highest tier, Division I and the Ivy League. But the Patriot League's decision regarding other fall sports. The Patriot League council said the service academies will be allowed to pursue competition in those sports in which they usually compete without the conference as the schools' leaders see fit.



DAVID TULLS/AP

Braves fans do the tomahawk chop during the ninth inning of a game in Atlanta. The team says it has no plans to change the team name but it is examining things such as the tomahawk chop chant.

Other teams face more scrutiny

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The spotlight for change is shining on the Cleveland Indians.

Now that the NFL's Washington Redskins have retired their contentious nickname and logo after decades of objection and amid a nationwide movement calling for racial justice, the Indians appear to be the next major sports franchise that might assume a new identity.

Along with the Indians, who recently announced they are in the early stages of evaluating a name change for the first time in 105 years, the Atlanta Braves, Chicago Blackhawks and Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs are among those facing backlash along with the potential of sponsors pulling their financial support.

For some, the time has come for widespread changes to sports nicknames, mascots and symbols as the country reckons with its legacy of racism.

"I understand people aren't willing to change so quickly, or they're hoping this moment is going to pass. It's not," said activist Frances Danger, who is Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole from Oklahoma. "And now that we've gotten what we needed on the Redskins side, we're going to start working on the rest of them. We're not going to let up."

On Monday, Washington announced it was dropping a nickname that had been in place since 1933. The team buckled under financial pressure from sponsors including FedEx, the shipping giant and naming rights holder to the team's stadium, as well as other groups.

While the debate over the Redskins' nickname raged for years, the drastic change came just two weeks after owner Dan Snyder, who once said he would never change the team's moniker, said the franchise would undergo a "thorough review" before its next move.

Cleveland's situation is different from Washington's on several fronts.



DAVID DERMER/AP

Francisco Lindor runs the bases during a simulated game in Cleveland on Friday. The Indians appear to be the next major sports franchise in line to change their name.

First, the Indians are not feeling heat from any corporate sponsors. At least not publicly.

When the Redskins announced their review earlier this month, the Indians released a statement within hours of Washington's that said, "we are committed to engaging our community and appropriate stakeholders to determine the best path forward with regard to our team name."

The Indians didn't promise to change their nickname. But it would be hard to imagine them going through a detailed evaluation and deciding to stick with a nickname that Native American groups have condemned for years as degrading and racist.

Cleveland showed a willingness to rebrand itself when it pulled the highly debated Chief Wahoo logo off its game jerseys and caps. While the red-faced, toothy caricature remains a presence on some team merchandise, its removal from the diamond and signage around Progressive Field was applauded as a positive step.

Even if the Indians decide to drop the nickname, there are numerous other layers — trademark contracts, new logos, Major League Baseball's approval — to work through before the change could take effect.

While the Indians seem open to a new identity, the Braves aren't budging.

They have no plans to change their nickname, telling season-ticket holders in a letter last week that "we will always be the Atlanta Braves." However, the team said it will review the team's "tomahawk chop" chant — a tradition borrowed in the early 1990s from Florida State's football program.

The Blackhawks, too, have no plans for change, saying their name honors a Native American leader, Black Hawk of Illinois' Sac & Fox Nation. The NHL team said it plans to work hard to raise awareness of Black Hawk and "the important contributions of all Native American people."

"We're trying to honor the logo and be respectful," general manager Stan Bowman said. "There's certainly a fine line between respect and disrespect, and I think we want to do an even better job. I think the most important thing is to be clear that we want to help educate. ... I think we've done a good job, but we want to do a better job. And I think we're committed to that as we go forward."

Part of Atlanta's insistence to keep a nickname the franchise brought from Milwaukee in 1966 is due to the team's "cultural working relationship" with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina and other tribal leaders it collaborates with regularly.

But as teams look to make changes, Danger will continue to push them to abandon any connection with Native Americans, who have been portrayed as mascots for generations.

"We're being paraded around without a say in how we're seen," she said. "It's a less bloody continuation of that, of us being a sideshow. It's not hard to choose the right side of history, so I hope these teams will take that step with us, side by side, as we all work together to change the world."

Associated Press writer Felicia Fonseca in Flagstaff, Ariz., and AP sports writers Charles Odom in Atlanta and Jay Cohen in Chicago contributed to this report.

MLB/NHL

Baseball teams ramp up competition

Only a week before season begins

BY STEVEN WINE
Associated Press

Well-traveled Milwaukee Brewers first baseman-outfielder Logan Morrison figures it will be easy for him to adjust to games without spectators this season.

"I played for the Rays and the Marlins, so I'm used to it," Morrison said.

The Brewers and other major league teams worked out again Monday in mostly empty ballparks, mindful of the long-awaited start to the season is a week away and fans won't be coming. So teams are trying as best they can to ramp up the competitiveness of summer camps conducted in isolation.

Several teams announced upcoming exhibition games, including Houston at Kansas City, Kansas City at St. Louis, and Cleveland against Pittsburgh.

The Brewers will play intrasquad games for several nights starting Tuesday and are dubbing them the Blue and Gold World Series, a nod to manager Craig Counsell's alma mater, Notre Dame. Catcher Omar Narvaez and outfielder Avisail Garcia will draft teams for matches designed to approximate the intensity of regular-season games.

"It's important for the players to understand the dial can't go from one to 10, from camp to opening day," Counsell said. "That's an important part of how we're trying to prepare them."

Minnesota Twins center fielder Byron Buxton was going all-out in an intrasquad game at Target Field when he suffered an injury. The oft-injured Buxton was tracking a long fly by Nelson Cruz when he hurt his left leg, and he had to be carted off the field.

Meanwhile, the virus continued to complicate preparations. St. Louis Cardinals reliever Jordan Hicks opted out of playing this season, citing underlying health concerns. He was diagnosed in high school with Type 1 diabetes.

Manager David Ross and five other undisclosed tier one individuals sat out a Chicago Cubs workout as a precaution while awaiting virus test results. Tier one includes players, coaches, physicians and others.

Cubs catcher Willson Contreras complimented the protective measures being taken by the team and MLB.

"I don't think that I'm at risk inside the ballpark," Contreras said. "Walking the streets, that's the one place that I don't feel safe."

All-Star outfielder Charlie Blackmon, the first major league player known to have tested positive for the coronavirus, returned to the Colorado Rockies for his first workout after being cleared to rejoin his teammates.

"I feel great. I have felt that way for at least a couple of weeks now," Blackmon said before taking batting and fielding practice



NAM Y. HUN/AP

The Cubs' Willson Contreras reacts after hitting a ball during team practice at Wrigley Field in Chicago. Contreras says he doesn't feel at risk of contracting the coronavirus when he's at the ballpark.

at Coors Field.

"It's nice to be back," he added. "I was getting kind of bored sitting there in the basement in quarantine by myself."

Blackmon said he was only mildly affected for about a day and a half by the virus that has killed more than 130,000 Americans and claimed more than a half-million lives worldwide.

He said he was "blindsided" by

the positive test result and has no idea how he contracted COVID-19 after taking all the usual precautions with his family: sheltering at home, social distancing and wearing a mask out in public.

But he said he was fortunate his symptoms weren't even as bad as the flu and he hopes to be ready for the July 24 opener at Texas.

Los Angeles Angels left-hander Patrick Sandoval also rejoined

his team after contracting the virus last month.

The Twins said first baseman Miguel Sano and backup catcher Williams Astudillo, who tested positive when they arrived at camp, have been eager to return.

AP sports writers Greg Beacham, Dave Campbell, Jay Cohen, David Ginsburg, Steve Megargee, Kristie Rieken and Annie Stapleton contributed to this report.

Back: Players must adjust to new reality if they want to finish the season

FROM BACK PAGE

kind of weird, but I'm pretty sure we're going to get used to it."

Players and everyone else who will be spending up to two months inside the "bubble" — including hotel staff, bus drivers and arena workers — will have no other choice but to get accustomed to the new reality if the NHL hopes to complete its most unique season. Once games resume, they will be played in empty arenas, with as many as three games played per day at each site, and with the Stanley Cup awarded in late September at the earliest.

There is no guarantee the league will be able to pull it off.

Though the familiar sound of pucks, skates and sticks echoed through arenas once again, the reminders of COVID-19 were also present.

The NHL announced that 43 players had tested positive for the coronavirus from June 8 through the end of the league's optional workouts. In Toronto, star forward Auston Matthews confirmed he tested positive while spending the break at his home in Arizona last month.

"It was the safest place to be.



CHRIS YOUNG, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Maple Leafs President Brendan Shanahan and General Manager Kyle Dubas watch Monday as training camp opens in Toronto.

And then obviously things flipped pretty quickly there," Matthews said. "I did my quarantine, and I'm feeling healthy now, so it's all good."

In Pittsburgh, the Penguins voluntarily sidelined nine players after learning they may have had secondary exposure to a person testing positive for COVID-19.

NHL rules barred the Penguins from revealing who the players were, but the most notable player not on the ice was forward Patric Hornqvist.

Captain Sidney Crosby remained upbeat.

"It's a matter of everyone working together and doing our best to be safe," Crosby said. "Whether

you are a player or a fan, you miss the game. You also have to understand the seriousness of what's around you. We're trying to find a balance for that... I'm optimistic."

It was a far different story in Denver, where the Avalanche had nearly a fully complement of players practicing, which is a considerable turnaround. Nathan MacKinnon, Mikko Rantanen, Nazem Kadri, Cale Makar and goalie Philipp Grubauer were among the formerly injured players back on the ice, with only center Colin Wilson deemed not fit to play.

"The fun thing about returning now, after having some time off and jumping right into the most important time of year, is that you're going to see everyone's best players healthy, rested," coach Jared Bednar said. "We're all anxious and champing at the bit ready to go, which should be a lot of fun."

In St. Louis, the defending champion Blues welcomed back scoring star Vladimir Tarasenko, who sustained a major injury to his shoulder 10 games into the season and was projected to miss

five months.

"It's a nice little secret weapon we've had all year, waiting to come back," defenseman Alex Pietrangolo said of Tarasenko. "Seemed like a pretty seamless transition, jumping back in with the rest of us."

In Nashville, coach John Hynes drew out plays on a white board at the edge of the ice, with players gathered closely around him. Inside the arena, half the seats inside the lower bowl stayed stacked away, leaving concrete around much of the ice.

Nashville goalie Pekka Rinne said the unknowns and questions left him concerned during his return from his native Finland to the United States. Now, the 37-year-old goalie feels much more comfortable after seeing the protocols being used.

"We come to the Bridgestone Arena and you could eat off the floor," Rinne said. "I mean, it's clean. It's a safe place so far."

AP hockey writers Stephen Whyno and Larry Lage, and AP sports writers Stephen Hawkins, Jay Cohen, Mitch Stacey and The Canadian Press contributed. Wawrow reported from Buffalo, N.Y., and Walker from Nashville, Tenn.

SPORTS



Following suit

Another conference drops fall sports due to coronavirus » **Page 22**

Maple Leafs center Auston Matthews tested positive for COVID-19 while spending the break at his home in Arizona and had to quarantine.

CHRIS YOUNG,
THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

NHL

Back to work



COLTER PETERSON, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

The defending champion Blues welcomed back scoring star Vladimir Tarasenko, who suffered a major injury to his shoulder 10 games into the season and was projected to miss five months. The hiatus allowed him time to completely recover.

Pucks and masks prevalent as 24 teams return to rinks

BY JOHN WAWROW
AND TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

St. Louis Blues goalie Jordan Binnington is so accustomed to wearing a mask, he didn't mind doing so for the past four months during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Sometimes, I forgot I'm wearing it while driving," Binnington said Monday, when the Blues were among the NHL's 24 teams to open training camp for the upcoming playoffs. "You make fun of those people who are driving by themselves with a mask on, but I sometimes forget."

Goalies weren't the only ones wearing masks as the NHL hit the ice, en masse, in the first full glimpse of hockey's return since the regular season was placed on pause March 12.

Masked equipment managers patrolled the benches, clearing them of water bottles and towels following practices. In Nashville, general manager David Poole, 70,

wore one while watching the Predators practice from a private suite.

And in Dallas, Stars interim coach Rick Bowness wore a mask while observing practice from an empty bench. At 65, he wasn't taking any chances.

"I was going to err on the side of caution. I'm still very nervous about the COVID, and we haven't tested our players since last Thursday," Bowness said. Once results come back, he intends to return to the ice, perhaps as early as Wednesday.

Players and staff all have their eyes on resuming the season with an expanded 24-team playoff set to begin in two hub cities — Toronto and Edmonton, Alberta, — on Aug. 1.

"On the ice is normal," Washington Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin said. "On the ice is same rules what we have before. But soon as you step off the ice in the locker room, everybody have to wear a mask. It's

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